

Lebanon to try newspaper editors

BEIRUT (R) — Editors of two banned Lebanese newspapers are to go on trial Thursday on charges of breaching national press laws, officials said Monday. A special tribunal will hear the charges against the leftist Al Safir and the Christian Nida'a Al Watan dailies. Al Safir was banned for a week from last Wednesday after publishing the alleged text of an Israeli proposal to Lebanon at Middle East peace talks in Washington earlier this month. An investigating judge said last week the publication of what Al Safir said was a proposal for ending Israel's occupation of South Lebanon violated the law by making public a secret document and endangering Lebanon's foreign relations. The government has described the text as inaccurate. Nida'a Al Watan was closed on April 30 until May 20 after publishing a report accusing Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, a Sunni Muslim billionaire with Saudi links, of Islamising Lebanon by buying Christian property. The article was deemed damaging to reconciliation in Lebanon where 15 years of civil war ended in 1990. Authorities also shut a private television station belonging to Christian tycoon Henri Sfeir, who also owns Nida'a Al Watan. All three suspended media houses have been sceptical of Mr. Hariri's policies.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية مستقلة لصحافة سياسية عربية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والراي

Israeli experts discount Iranian 'threat'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Iran is expected to have nuclear weapons by the end of the decade, but despite aggressive rhetoric is unlikely to strike against Israel, military analysts said Monday. The analysts, addressing a symposium on nuclear weapons in the Middle East, made many indirect references to Israel's reported nuclear capability, speaking of "our deterrent" and of Israel as a "non-conventional superpower." The Russian foreign intelligence service in a report published in February estimated that Israel might have produced as many as 200 nuclear weapons and has uranium stocks to last 200 years. Israeli officials refuse to respond to such reports. Ephraim Sneh, a legislator from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party, said Iran was expected to be the dominant power in the Gulf within five years and a nuclear power by the year 2000. He said he did not see any direct link between the Middle East peace talks and nuclear proliferation in the region, but that Iran's campaign gave a sense of urgency to the negotiations. It was better for Israel to have solved one problem — the territorial conflict with Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians — before confronting another, Iran's nuclear threat, he said.

Volume 17 Number 5310

AMMAN TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1993 THU EL QU'DEH 26, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Arafat in Vienna

VIENNA (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived for a two-day visit here Monday, airport authorities announced. Austrian diplomatic sources said Mr. Arafat would seek Austrian support for the PLO's position in the Middle East peace process in talks with Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, President Thomas Klestil, Foreign Minister Alois Mock and Parliament Speaker Heinz Fischer. Mr. Arafat last visited Austria in August 1990 when he attended the funeral of former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, who had played an active part in trying to bring Israel and the Arabs closer together as early as the 1970s.

Five shot dead in Yemen courtroom

SANAA (AFP) — Gunmen burst into a Yemeni court and opened fire on defendants in a criminal case, killing five people and wounding two others, police said Monday. Four defendants and a prison guard died instantly and three were wounded. One of the wounded died in hospital after Sunday's violence in the southern town of Tawahi. The gunmen were arrested, police added.

Human rights group established in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament Friday formed a "non-governmental" committee to investigate the state of human rights in Iran and abroad, officials here said. Seventeen deputies and lawyers have voluntarily joined the committee which seeks to "investigate the human rights situation in Iran and abroad and offer suggestions," said Tehran Deputy Saeed Rajai Khorassani who was his country's envoy to the United Nations. Mr. Rajai Khorassani said the committee would defend "legitimate" individual and social rights worldwide with "total independence and impartiality." But he did not say whether the committee would be empowered to act against reported violations in Iran.

Father 'executes' son's killer

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — An Afghan murderer was publicly executed by the father of his victim after an Islamic court in the eastern Afghan province of Kunar invoked Sharia which allows an equal measure of retribution. In a statement Monday the local government said the man was shot at point blank range last week under the provisions of the Islamic law of "Qisas" which provides for "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth," if a family refuses blood money or to forgive the murderer.

Relay in Spain

MADRID (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met here Monday with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez or talks centered mainly on the rises in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the former Soviet Union, officials said. Mr. Velayati, who arrived Sunday for a 24-hour visit, met with Mr. Gonzalez for 50 minutes and was scheduled to discuss trade issues with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana. Mr. Velayati was also due to meet King Juan Carlos.

British MPs see jailed Britons

BAGHDAD (R) — Two members of the British parliament visited two jailed Britons Monday after telling Iraqi officials they would press London to make a deal for their release. Opposition Labour Party MPs Tam Dalyell and George Galloway spent nearly an hour with Michael Wainwright and Paul Ride at Abu Ghraib prison on the western outskirts of Baghdad, security officials said. Mr. Wainwright and Mr. Ride were jailed last year after straying across the border into Iraq from Kuwait. Baghdad has indicated it might free the men if Britain released some of the hundreds of millions of dollars in Iraqi funds frozen by London since the Gulf crisis. The Scottish MPs said that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz told them Sunday night that London had made a deal with Baghdad to free British prisoner Ian Richter during the Gulf crisis in exchange for more than \$100 million in assets.

King optimistic of peace process, but warns against failure

Islam misunderstood in West; people are angry and frustrated by unfair approaches
Evolution rather than revolution required to bring about democratic changes in region

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has voiced optimism over the Middle East peace process, but also warned that if the present opportunity for peace was missed then the region would face a bleak future.

The King, in an interview with French television broadcast on Jordan Television Monday, also said there can never be real peace in the Middle East without addressing the Palestinian dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict in a just and comprehensive manner.

The interviewer also touched upon Islam and what is perceived as Islamic threat in the West and Jordan's relations with Iraq as well as King's perception of the region in the year 2,000.

On the Middle East peace process, the King said:

"I am optimistic in the sense that there is a peace chance, which I believe, is the last chance to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace between the children of Abraham, and if we miss it then the future will be extremely bleak for this region."

"In the peace process things have not been running smoothly, but nonetheless I still hope that somehow the realisation of the importance of the moment and what has been achieved so far in

terms of the beginning at least would compel us all and bring us about to seeing some progress to achieve peace that the future generations can live with and protect and enjoy."

In reply to another question the King said: "I believe in the final analysis what will happen and what is the intention of all the participants in these peace talks is to see a comprehensive settlement, and there are various working groups dealing with the different parties concerned, including obviously the Palestinian dimension. I do not see that there ever can be a solution to the problem without addressing the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of it in terms of Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil."

"So although there may be progress on the one level or another, here or there, in the final analysis peace will be ratified when all the elements of the dilemma — or the problem and question in this region, the question of rights — is addressed and when there's a solution to the problem that is comprehensive."

On the role of Clinton's administration, he said:

"I have not seen administration to continue in the same way and to increase its involvement and attempts to bring about a com-

prehensive peace."

"In reply about to a question about fundamentalism and Iran's role in the region, the King said:

"I don't think it is any problem. There is a misconception of what Islam really is. We suffer a lot from the residual effect of history in terms of the rest of the world as it relates to this part of the world and Islam."

"On the other hand, there is unfortunately a degree of imbalance coupled with a lot of anger and frustration over the way problems are addressed as they affect Muslims and Arabs and this also produces some acts which are totally alien to Islam."

"Recently we have seen a lot of attempts to present Islam in a manner that isn't. Islam is one of the three monotheistic religions, and as a Muslim I feel very sad sometimes when I see that people try to suggest that it is something very different from what it is."

"On the other hand, I believe that the weakness is not one where a power may grow in the area and create a problem or another. The weakness in our region is related to some basic elements and questions. It is related essentially to the fact that

(Continued on page 10)

Ashrawi: PLO studying options

TUNIS (Agencies) — Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation at the Middle East peace talks, has said that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was considering options for reopening talks with Washington "with a view to producing a statement of principle" in the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Talking to journalists Sunday night, Dr. Ashrawi refused to use the word "failure" about the ninth session of the peace talks which ended in Washington Thursday with no agreement.

However, she said the session has been a "negative test" of Israel's intentions and of the United States' readiness to keep to its commitments regarding the talks.

She ruled out talks with the Israelis elsewhere than the negotiating table, invoking an agreement made with other Arab parties to the peace process.

Dr. Ashrawi like PLO Chair-

man Yasser Arafat, challenged the United States' neutrality in the talks. She said a compromise formula submitted by Washington was "totally inspired" by the Israeli viewpoint.

"The chasm is very wide," she said with differences on such fundamental issues as territorial unity, Jerusalem, the powers of a Palestinian autonomous administration, security matters and Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. "The Israeli and U.S. proposals were less than the acceptable minimum," Dr. Ashrawi said.

"There was a point in the (U.S.) document saying that work on principles could be completed with the American side. We are discussing how we could continue to discuss that with the United States," Dr. Ashrawi told reporters.

She said that during the ninth round of talks there was "a change in (Israeli) language... but

in practice, it became clear that there was a setback in substance, and most dangerous, there was a use of human rights to pressure us... and there was a non-commitment on promises."

Lebanon: No progress

Lebanon's chief negotiator said on Monday that the ninth round of peace talks failed to make any progress but that U.S. intervention was encouraging.

"I can't say that what happened was progress," Suheil Chammass told reporters.

Thousands of pro-Israeli Hizbollah supporters opposed to the peace talks marched in Beirut on Monday on the 10th anniversary of a defunct peace accord signed by Lebanon and Israel.

"No to submission, no to disgrace... we will negotiate with Israel only at the battlezone," chanted some 5,000 Hizbollah sympathisers.

Saudi rights group to fight

NICOSIA (Agencies) — An Islamic human rights group in Saudi Arabia vowed Monday to fight on despite a government crackdown and the arrest of hundreds of its supporters.

"Demonstrations of support have taken place in recent days in different parts of the country... and this has not pleased the authorities," said the group's leader Abdullah Al Masaari, contacted from Riyadh by telephone.

He said hundreds of supporters of the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) had been arrested and that more people were expected to be questioned.

Some 400 supporters have been rounded up after more than 10,000 people across the Saudi kingdom signed a petition of support for the newly-formed group, according to the Cairo-based Arab Organisation of Human Rights.

But Mr. Masaari insisted the committee would "pursue its activities until it convinces the authorities of the pertinence of its action, inspired by sharia," (Islamic law).

"I have obligations towards petitioners," who have asked for the committee's intervention before the authorities, he said.

The government Thursday stripped the seven founding committee members of their jobs. Four university professors and a civil servant were sacked while two lawyers were barred from practising.

"Masaari has said his son Mohammad, a university professor who served as the committee's spokesman, was arrested by security forces Saturday."

The committee, the formation of which was announced on May 7, has said its objectives were to fight against "oppression and injustice" in Saudi Arabia and secure the release of political prisoners.

Riyadh has denied it was detaining any political prisoners and the country's religious leadership has argued the country was already regulated by Sharia.

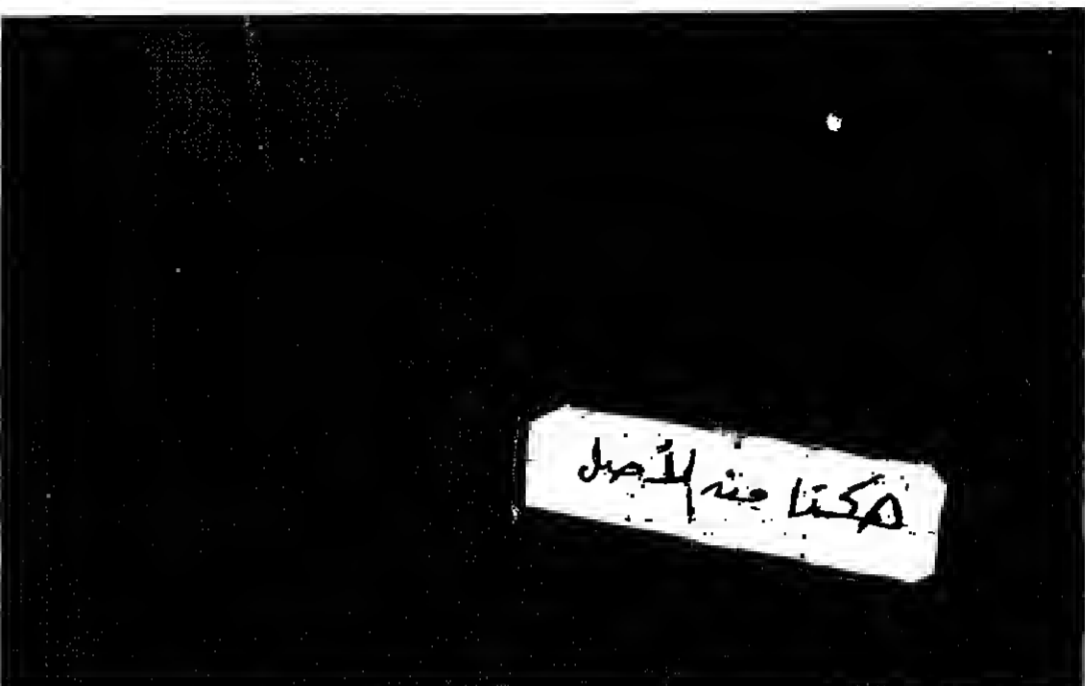
AOHR condemns arrests
The Jordan branch of the

AOHR Monday issued a statement denouncing the arrests in Saudi Arabia and other measures taken against supporters of the human rights group.

"The arrest of the members of the Saudi Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights constitutes a flagrant violation of the principles of human rights and the values of justice and freedom," an AOHR statement issued in Amman said.

"The measures were taken against innocent people," the statement said. "The only sin committed by the CDLR members was their declaration of their readiness to come to the defence of legitimate human rights."

The statement said: "The AOHR in Jordan condemns the measures taken against the CDLR members and urge the Saudi authorities to reconsider their position and respond favourably to the requirements of the modern age and comply with the provisions of the international conventions and Islamic law as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."



Fighters of the Hezb-e-Islami group Monday pose near the body of a soldier killed near Darulaman in Kabul (AFP photo)

Israeli soldiers kill 3 in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops Monday killed two Palestinians while a boy hit a day earlier died of his wounds in the occupied territories, Palestinian sources said.

Moayed Saleh Mahmud, 18, was hit as troops opened fire at stone-throwers in Beit village on the West Bank, the sources said. On the outskirts of Deir Al Balah on the Gaza Strip, a bedouin woman was fatally wounded as troops opened fire in reaction to an explosion before dawn.

Mariam Breik Sawarka was in her tent at a roadside bedouin camp. Residents said that Sawarka left her tent Sunday night to check on the sheep after she heard noises.

The residents later reported hearing gunfire, and found the woman's body at dawn.

Israel Radio said residents attributed the gunfire to Israeli troops operating in the area.

Israel Radio quoted a senior army officer as calling the woman's shooting a "tragic incident." It said troops opened fire after a bomb was thrown at an army vehicle.

But residents said they heard nothing before the shooting.

Ahmad Al Kard, 11, who was shot in the head Sunday in Shati refugee camp on the Gaza Strip

during clashes with stone throwers, died Monday of his wounds in the Tel Hashomer hospital south of Tel Aviv, the sources said.

The latest deaths raised to 1,084 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli gunfire since the December 1987 start of the uprising, according to an AFP count.

At least 14 others were wounded in Monday's clashes in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said.

On Sunday, soldiers shot dead two Palestinian children, including a baby, during similar clashes, while unknown assailants killed two Israeli merchants and two Palestinian farmers.

The vegetable merchants died in the bloodiest anti-Israeli attack since the West Bank and Gaza were cut off in March.

The armed wing of the Hamas movement and Fateh hawks claimed joint responsibility for the shooting.

Their leaflet accused their victims of "stealing the products of our land." It also suggested they were avenging Palestinians killed in Gaza, saying, "we promise that (Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin) will taste from the same cup as the mothers of our martyrs."

Morocco does not rule out inviting Arafat and Rabin

PARIS (Agencies) — King Hassan of Morocco has said he could not rule out inviting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to Rabat to give momentum to Middle East peace talks, but now was not the time.

"I can't rule it out but the time is not ripe," King Hassan said in an interview with French television station TF1 that was taped last Friday and broadcast Sunday (see page 2).

Three weeks of Middle East peace talks, part of a process which began in Madrid in October 1991, ended Thursday.

The participants failed to agree on the principles of Palestinian self-rule, the goal of the present talks, or a firm date for the discussions to resume.

The Moroccan leader said it was important for the talks to make quick progress or radical factions could gain an upper hand within the Palestinian movement.

"If this situation continues, with hesitation on the part of the Israelis and suspicion on the part of the Palestinians, I fear the hopes that have been raised could have a very negative effect on the future," he said.

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin is expected to visit Cairo in early June for talks on the Arab-Israeli negotiations, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters in the Gulf Sunday.

Morocco played a key role in arranging the visit by then Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to occupied Jerusalem in 1977. That visit led to the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Syria rules out summit

Syria Sunday ruled out a proposal from Mr. Rabin for a summit meeting, charging it was a ruse aimed at bringing the peace talks to a halt.

"The proposal of Yitzhak Rabin to raise the level of negotiation is nothing new. It's a manoeuvre to halt the talks and out of the question," said Damascus Radio.

"If the Israelis wanted progress in the negotiations, they would clearly announce their commitment to implement the terms of reference of the peace process, namely U.N. Security Council resolutions and the principle of exchanging land for peace."

Mr. Rabin made the proposal on Friday, a day after the latest round of Arab-Israeli peace talks wound up, in what he described as a move to advance the negotiations.

"The time has come to raise the level of the negotiations and to speak face to face," Mr. Rabin told a meeting of his Labour Party, calling for a summit with Syrian leaders.

Syria insists on a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and has turned down earlier calls for a summit.

Syria assails Likud conference, page 2

No letup in Kabul battles

KABUL (Agencies) — Fighting between rival factions erupted a sixth day in the Afghan capital Monday as attempts to establish a permanent ceasefire were under way.

Defence Ministry jets continued to bomb the positions of the Hezb-e-Islami faction loyal to Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his allies occupying the greater part of south Kabul.

In return, gunners of Mr. Hekmatyar's forces pounded the north of the city with a barrage of long-range rockets.

According to figures released by the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), the number of casualties admitted to the five main functioning Kabul hospitals and two smaller clinics was about 3,200 for the first five days of the conflict.

The number of those killed in the fighting or who died in hospital was not known. But ICRC delegation head Amin Kobei said that 90 per cent of the casualties being treated in the south Kabul hospital called Karte Se were civilians, not fighters.

Sources said a commission comprising representatives of the various factions which have been meeting in Jalalabad to try to work out a political settlement were attempting to arrange a ceasefire.

But it was not known if the call to lay down their arms had reached the warring sides.

A 12-man peace commission was shuttling between the warring parties in Kabul to try to negotiate a ceasefire Monday.

Both sides have set conditions. Said mediator General Hussain Anwar from a more moderate party.

Streets virtually deserted except for tanks, and refugees or bicycles or pushing cartloads of possessions fleeing homes near the frontline.

"We couldn't get out during these past few days," said Ghulam Sartan, his three children pushing a trolley heaped with household belongings.

"We are escaping from fighting and hunger and you are not Muslims if you stop me in this dangerous place," he said.

One old man was running in the opposite direction, his arms loaded with flat bread loaves.

Coalition crisis could harm peace — Rabin

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The government's instability in Israel could undermine the Middle East peace process, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told Israeli Radio on Monday.

He said he had not yet succeeded in settling the crisis that threatens his government coalition split between secular and religious cabinet members.

"I think the Arab side believes that the Israeli government does not enjoy a stable (parliamentary) majority," Mr. Rabin said.

"This could undermine their willingness to talk to us, as they may think that the government is short-lived," he added.

The ultra-orthodox Shas party and the left-wing Meretz, both needed by Mr. Rabin's Labour coalition, have been at odds over statements by Education and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni which Shas has described as anti-religious.

Interior Minister Aryeh Deri, an ultra-orthodox rabbi of the Shas party, and Meretz leader and secular champion Aloni had agreed to give Mr. Rabin seven days to reconcile their differences. The deadline expires Tuesday.

Shas gave Mr. Rabin another week Monday to solve the crisis. Mr. Deri quit the government on May 9, accusing Ms. Aloni of the leftist Meretz faction of making statements offensive to religious Jews.

He took back his resignation two days later, giving Mr. Rabin a week to find Ms. Aloni another cabinet job acceptable to both opposition parties.

Mr. Deri and Environment Minister Yossi Sarid of Meretz faction had both said Mr. Rabin

might not be able to arrange an acceptable reshuffle Tuesday, the original deadline.

On Monday Mr. Deri said Mr. Rabin's office had asked for yet another week to negotiate. "I said we have no objection," Mr. Deri told Israeli Radio.

The crisis posed no threat to the government but Mr. Rabin, hoping to ensure the broadest possible public consensus, wants a religious party such as Shas behind him when the time comes to push a peace accord through parliament.

Mr. Deri wants Ms. Aloni stripped of her education portfolio and has rejected Mr. Rabin's proposal that she be named minister of communications and culture.

On Sunday, Mr. Rabin ruled out any further one-sided "goodwill gestures" towards the Palestinians in the Middle East peace talks.

Israel allowed 30 long-term Palestinian exiles to return to the occupied territories in a move to kick-start the peace talks after a four-month break over the expulsion in December of 415 other Palestinians.

But the negotiations ended Thursday in Washington without any progress.

In another development, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Monday threatened his Israeli counterpart Ezer Weizman to discuss the peace process, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported.

Syria assails Likud conference on Golan

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria Monday bitterly denounced the opening of a conference in the Golan Heights by Israel's right-wing Likud party, calling it a "new blow" to the Middle East peace process.

The government-run Tishrin daily called it "a dangerous, provocative step" and said Syria viewed the move as a blatant defiance of U.N. resolutions seeking Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories seized in the 1967 war.

Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu addressed a party conference in an Israeli settlement there Sunday, pledging that he would "not lend a hand to destroying Jewish settlements."

"We will keep on building them" in the Golan and occupied West Bank, Mr. Netanyahu said. He said that holding the plateau was necessary for Israel's "security."

The Likud, which began the Middle East peace process under Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir but lost elections in June 1992, opposes Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's readiness to withdraw from some of the land in exchange for peace with Damascus.

Syria has demanded the entire territory.

"This step is a new blow dealt against the peace process, Tishrin said in an editorial.

"The Golan will never be but a Syrian land and peace could not be attained unless Israel cedes all lands it captured including the Golan," Tishrin said.

Al Baath newspaper said the Golan conference showed that there was no real difference between Mr. Rabin's Labour Party and Likud.

It said both focused on "how to destroy the Arabs and usurp their lands."

Al Baath castigated the United

States for its support of Israel, which it said encouraged the Jewish state to defy the U.N. resolutions.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman, making his first public appearance in the non-partisan office, indicated that he would take a strong interest in the peace issue.

We warned Israelis to stick to democratic procedures in deciding the outcome of the peace process.

Likud leaders argue that controlling the Golan is crucial to Israel's defence.

"We returned to the Golan Heights, not to leave it. We established ourselves in the Golan not to later abandon it or our nation's security," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"The Golan symbolises the whole Jewish history of building and destruction," he said. "We will not lend a hand to destroying Jewish settlements here."

Children from some of the 30 Golan settlements including Katzrin, marched across the stage bearing placards listing the names of their villages.

In all about 11,000 Israelis live in the Golan, an area also home to some 18,000 Druze Arabs.

"We need this place for two reasons," schoolteacher Fuada Hemo, 34, told a reporter. "One is the beauty and the second is security."

Some Golan settlers have threatened to use violence to resist a pullback. The spirit of defiance was palpable at the two-hour pep rally.

"There is no power in the world that can move us off the Golan Heights," said Eli Malka, head of the Golan settlers' council, announcing plans for two new settlements in the next couple months.

Mr. Netanyahu was chairing his first major party gathering

since winning a leadership race in March when he replaced Mr. Shamir as chairman. Mr. Shamir stepped down after last year's election. It was the first election lost by Likud since 1977.

Mr. Netanyahu's main hope of unseating Mr. Rabin seems to rest on whether the Mideast peace talks yield a treaty or settlement with the Arabs. The ninth round of talks broke up Thursday with little progress.

Disappointed with the outcome, Mr. Rabin told his cabinet Sunday he would avoid making further confidence-building gestures to the Palestinians, Israeli media reported.

"The Palestinians have become addicted to gestures," Mr. Rabin said, according to Israel Radio. "It seems that without them they aren't in a good mood."

Israeli negotiators gave mixed reviews but seemed to concur that some progress was made in discussing Israel's proposal for an interim settlement of limited autonomy for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Netanyahu also addressed the autonomy issue in Katzrin, stressing he objected to Palestinians using the plan as a springboard for statehood. "There is no reason for the autonomy to turn into a self-governing country," he said.

The Likud conference resumes in Tel Aviv Monday and Tuesday, when delegates will vote on a controversial new party constitution aimed at shoring up Mr. Netanyahu's leadership role. He already has a threatened rebellion on his hands.

Allies of old guard rivals, such as former Housing Minister Ariel Sharon and former Foreign Minister David Levy, have accused Mr. Netanyahu of trying to push them aside.



Palestinian and Indian students carry a poster of New Delhi against the visit of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (AFP photo)

Protests greet Peres in India

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Some 200 Palestinian and Indian students staged a demonstration in the city centre Monday to protest the visit of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, witnesses said.

"Peres go back," chanted the protesters, who waved anti-Israeli placards as they set out from an underground shopping centre intending to march on the Israeli embassy.

Police stopped the students from reaching the mission in the central commercial district of Connaught Place, cordoning off an approach road.

The protesters then blocked traffic for about 20 minutes until they were driven away in police vehicles to be detained briefly.

The demonstrators condemned Israeli "suppression against the Palestinian people," and demanded that Israel allow the more than 415 Palestinians expelled to Lebanon to return to their homes in the occupied territories.

Mr. Peres arrived here early Monday on the first visit to India by an Israeli foreign minister since the two countries set up full

diplomatic relations in January 1992.

A large number of Palestinians study in India, a staunch supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Arah diplomats said Palestinian groups and their Indian supporters planned to hold several demonstrations against Israeli actions in the occupied territories during the two-day visit. They stressed the protesters were not against the visit.

"He (Peres) is still considered as one of those who advocates peace," said Ali Muhsein Hamid, chief representative of the Arab League in New Delhi, told Reuters.

Indian officials said Mr. Peres was being given the highest security, including elite commands, in addition to the Israeli retinue that normally accompanies the foreign minister.

Several Palestinian, Arab and Iranian student groups and some embassies were put under close surveillance, they said. The officials declined to name the embassies.

Mr. Peres personally intervened on behalf of some Indian photographers after they were cleared by Indian security men, but were asked by the Israelis to be frisked again.

"You are welcome to come inside," he smiled at the photographers at Hyderabad House, a highly-guarded official residence usually reserved for heads of governments.

Mr. Peres began his tour with a visit to the memorial for Mahatma Gandhi, celebrated leader of Indian independence from Britain in 1947, who was assassinated a year later.

First on the agenda was a 40-minute meeting with Minister of State for External Affairs R.L. Bhatia, who is standing in for Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh, hospitalised for exhaustion nearly a month ago and still ailing.

On Tuesday, Mr. Peres is scheduled to hold talks with President Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, who paved the way for the normalisation of relations with Israel after coming to power

King Hassan rejects Amnesty criticism

PARIS (AP) — King Hassan II of Morocco Sunday rejected charges by the human-rights group Amnesty International that hundreds of political prisoners are held in secret jails.

The Moroccan monarch also said that despite parliamentary elections scheduled for June 25, his country probably remains "half a generation" from democratic maturity.

Interviewed at his palace in Rabat by the French television network TF-1, King Hassan called the London-based human-rights organisation "a Trojan horse... that serves no purpose."

The interview, taped Friday, was broadcast hours after three human-rights groups in Morocco announced that a leader of another such organisation was arrested last week.

Zoulikha Al Akhdari, a director of the Moroccan Association for Human Rights, was reportedly arrested for criticising the government over alleged bad treatment of political prisoners.

She could face five years in prison. The groups announcing her arrest said that her request for bail to care for her month-old child had been denied. The infant was with her in jail.

Morocco has been accused by Amnesty International and other groups over the years of killing, torturing and mistreating thousands of political prisoners, some in secret jails around the



King Hassan II

country.

Many of the alleged prisoners are Western Saharans opposed to the king's annexation of their territory after its independence from Spain in 1975. A long war between the Polisario guerrilla movement and King Hassan's troops has been largely won by Morocco.

Amnesty International issued a report April 14 accusing Morocco of keeping hundreds of political prisoners in secret jails, despite the highly publicised releases of some prominent figures over the past few years. Morocco denies it holds any political prisoners.

Amnesty cited as its sources freed prisoners and the families

of people who have "disappeared" over the years and are believed to be in custody.

Scheduled to be held three years ago and postponed many times since, the elections for 222 seats in the 333-seat national assembly are expected to be won by parties unquestionably loyal to the king.

Four leftist opposition parties which have called for King Hassan to give elected officials a greater share of power have announced a united front. They did the same in local elections last year but lost amid claims of vote-buying and fraud.

King Hassan said that in democratic societies, the defeated accept the victory of their opponents and work as a loyal opposition.

"It will take us perhaps another generation to before we arrive at this stage of political maturity," the king said.

TF1 television asked King Hassan if there had been abuses in his country. "Yes, but not as many as one says," he replied.

King Hassan was asked if he was committed to preventing people from "disappearing," the term used for those held illegally. "I say there should no longer be any of that," he said, adding that he did not contest the fact that there had been some human rights abuses but saying he was not a "wholesale holder" of political prisoners.



German soldiers pose for photographs in the central Somali town of Belet Huen (AFP photo)

German forces take up Somali positions

BELET HUEN, Somalia (R) — An advance party of German troops arrived Sunday in Belet Huen, a relatively peaceful town in central Somalia, to launch a mission testing Bonn's anti-militarist constitution.

The 22 soldiers flew in from the capital, Mogadishu, armed with G1 rifles and 102 medium machine guns in line with their government's promise to the German public that they would carry only sidearms and use them only in self-defence.

"They brought medicines, tents, water and other essential supplies to set up a camp from which German troops will help a 30,000-strong U.N. force to police security in a country ruined by clan wars."

They are the first German soldiers to serve outside Europe

since World War II. Despite legal challenges from the political opposition, the German government insists that it is a non-combat mission.

Germany has promised to send a 1,500-strong force to join U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), which has a wide mandate including authority to shoot to kill to prevent a return of Somalia's civil war bloodshed.

"I am very happy that we are back in the (U.N. military) family," said Major-General Georg Bernhardt, commander of the German forces in Somalia, after arriving in Belet Huen.

Others in the 45-member German preparatory contingent which arrived in Mogadishu Friday remained in Mogadishu. A further 100 German soldiers were due to arrive later this week and the

rest of the force was expected in Somalia by August.

U.N. commanders have not yet decided where German troops may go after Belet Huen, there has been talk of sending them to Bossaso, where northern Somali militias have declared an independent state.

Germany's 1949 constitution reflects a suspicion of militarism left by its Nazi past. Chancellor Helmut Kohl wants to expand the country's military role but the opposition Social Democrats say the Somali mission infringes constitutional curbs.

UNOSOM II took over this month from an American-led task force which landed in Somalia on Dec. 9 to protect famine relief convoys from civil war looting.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:25 Omniscience

18:30 Maguy

19:00 News in French

19:15 Ushuaia

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Beatles About

21:00 Forever Green

21:30 News in English

22:00 Feature Film: "A Scent of Autumn"

PRAYER TIMES

06:03 Fajr

12:32 (Sunrise) Dhuhr

15:13 Asr

18:22 Maghreb

21:01 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 810740

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 832783

St. Francis Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 634400

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrazas Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625256

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

Church of the Redeemer Tel. 638525

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 22/34

Agaba 22/34

Deserts 21/28

Jordan Valley 22/29

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 28, Agaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 18 per cent, Agaba 21 per cent.

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be westerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

WEATHER

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Yousef Abdo 694916

Dr. Yousef Samour 615648

Dr. Bahjat Bader 849362

Dr. Ahmad Yousef 786384

First pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 776336

Al Aseem pharmacy 637053

Nairoth pharmacy 623672

Al Salem pharmacy 637630

Yaacoub pharmacy 644945

Al Aseem pharmacy 637660

Nairoth pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 603800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

REPAIRS

Repairs 623101

Abdall Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53330

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussain Medical Centre 813513/22

Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann. 644281/6

Akhef Maternity, J. Ann. 642412/2

Jawal Amman Maternity 642562

Mallat, J. Ann. 636140

Palestine, Shamsiann 664171/4

Shamsiann Hospital 669131

University Hospital 643845

Al-Musabir Hospital 667271/7

The Islamic, Abdall 664171/7

Al-Ahli, Abdall 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajir 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 775111/26

ARMY, MARINA

Queen Alia Hospital 891611/15

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)902560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)983732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)989799

IBRD:

Prince Basmal Hospital (02)225555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)227275

Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Prince Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Austrian group win Yemen oil concession

NICOSIA (R) — The Austrian energy group OMV has signed an oil exploration and production agreement for the 1,100 square-kilometre Sar hock in eastern Yemen, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday. The weekly oil industry newsletter said OMV acquired a 50 per cent interest in oil exploration and production activity in the block, which was awarded in January to British firm Clyde Petroleum and a local company, Ansan Wiks. It said Ansan Wiks would continue to hold 41 per cent interest in the block, and Clyde would retain nine per cent. The Sar hock (Block 10B) is around 40 kilometres northwest of Canadian Occidental Masila concession, which is expected to start producing 120,000 barrels of crude a day from September. The new production would boost Yemen's crude oil output to around 320,000 barrels per day.

Israeli batters mailman

HAIFA (AP) — A man arrested for battery said he decided to teach his mailman a lesson because he did not shave, according to court records published Monday. "I was real nice to him, but I told him several times he should shave," Haifa magistrate's court records quoted Moshe Sermani as explaining why he beat mailman Yaacov Yaari. "He works with the public and it's not right, so I smacked him a little," Mr. Sermani added. Police told the court that Mr. Sermani beat Mr. Yaari last Thursday and that it was not the first time. The magistrate's court judge ordered Mr. Sermani detained for a week and ordered a psychiatric evaluation.

Spain bars ferry passengers from Morocco

RABAT (R) — Spanish authorities refused to allow passengers on a British ferry to land in Almeria when it arrived Sunday night on its maiden voyage from Morocco, the official news agency MAP said. The roll-on roll-off ferry Sirocco left the Moroccan port Nador for Almeria with about 60 foreign and Moroccan journalists on board on an inaugural voyage before opening a regular service. An official Spanish source told Reuters the Nador-Almeria ferry violated a bilateral accord between Morocco and Spain which gave shipping companies of the two countries a monopoly. The source said talks were in progress in an effort to resolve the dispute. The Sirocco was hired from the British company Cenargo International Ltd. to run a service for the Moroccan company Ferrimaroc to relieve congestion in the Straits of Gibraltar. Hundreds of thousands of North Africans cross the straits by ferry during the summer months through the southern Spanish port of Algeiras. In the past hundreds of passengers and their cars have had to wait for days to make the two-hour crossing, because there was not enough room on ferries between Algeiras and the Moroccan port of Tangier and the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla. The Moroccan news agency said Cenargo had sent letters of protest to the British and Spanish ambassadors in Rabat after the passengers were forbidden to land.

Algeria starts repatriating Tuaregs to Mali

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria has sent home to Mali the first of nearly 1,200 Tuaregs to be repatriated, officially on a "voluntary" basis in the short term. A total of 158 people representing 19 families left Tamansasset in the Algerian Sahara Sunday. Interior Minister Mohammed Hardi travelled from Algiers to supervise the start of the operation, which reports in Bamako said would continue this week with the departure of 500 more Tuaregs for Mali's Kida region. Repatriation of Tuareg refugees was originally due to start in April but was twice postponed "for technical reasons at the Malian government's request," Algerian officials said. An agreement on resettling the Tuaregs was signed on Dec. 21 in Tamansasset by Algeria, Mali and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, which pledged funds to finance the operation. The decision to go ahead Sunday followed the announcement last Wednesday by a leading Tuareg rebel figure, Rissaa Ag Sid Mohammed, that a three-year-old insurgency in northern Mali was over. Altogether more than 60,000 Tuaregs who fled to Algeria, Mauritania and Burkina Faso to escape the fighting and ensuing repression are covered by the repatriation and resettlement scheme.

Utah man dies in accident in Israeli desert

TEL AVIV (AP) — A rock tumbled from a cliff into a popular desert oasis in Israel, killing an American tourist, officials said Monday. Dale Call, 65, of Provo, Utah, was killed Sunday while hiking with a group of Mormon tourists at the Ein Gedi reserve in the steep canyons bordering the Dead Sea, said nature reserve authority spokeswoman Dina Weinstein. The group had stopped by a small pool and waterfall when two-kilo stone hit Mr. Call on the head, Ms. Weinstein said. An army doctor visiting the site rushed to treat him, but Mr. Call died almost immediately, she said. "The group was shocked, but felt blessed that more were not hurt," said Michael Bawden, academic coordinator at the Jerusalem Centre for Middle East Studies, a branch of Brigham Young University. "His wife, Judy, said she was 'grateful that he died in such a beautiful place,'" Mr. Bawden said. Ms. Weinstein said the group did not deviate from the paths, but said there are signs warning hikers of falling stones. She said the stone fell from a cliff inaccessible to hikers, and that it could have been dislodged by a wild goat or come loose by itself. It was the first time anyone had been killed in the reserve, she said. The U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv said arrangements were being made to return Mr. Call's body for burial.

16 held as heroin smugglers in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Police have arrested 13 Syrians and three Egyptians who swallowed capsules containing 3½ kilograms of heroin in attempts to smuggle it into Egypt, police said Monday. Major General Sayed Gheith, head of the anti-narcotics department, said the smugglers were arrested over the past three months in the southern Sinai port of Nuweiba. The most recent arrest was Monday. In March, police arrested six Syrian in Nuweiba for trying to smuggle heroin worth \$1 million in a gas cylinder. They said two Lebanese, two Egyptians, a Syrian and a Libyan remain at large in that case. The suspects could face a death penalty if convicted.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

08:30 Dhahran (RJ)

10:15 Damascus (RJ)

10:15 Cairo (RJ)

10:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

11:00 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

11:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

17:35 London (RJ)

17:45 Cairo (RJ)

17:45 Frankfurt (RJ)

20:30 Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:45 Paris, Beirut (ME)

18:30 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)

20:30 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Damascus (RJ)

08:00 Agaba (RJ)

09:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

12:00 Vienna (RJ)

12:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)

12:45 Paris, Brussels (RJ)

12:50 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)

13:45 Frankfurt (RJ)

13:45 Cairo (RJ)

13:50 London (RJ)

21:30 Jeddah (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Uppercase price in ffs per kg

Apple 700/700

Banana 680/680

Banana (Mukammal) 630/630

Beans 540/450

Cabbage 70/40

Carrot 150/90

Cucumbers (large) 250/180

Cucumbers (small) 240/180

Eggplant 300/180

Garlic 260/200

Grapefruit 240/180

Lemon 90/50

Marrow (large) 580/500

Marrow (small) 150/100

Mint 80

Onion (dry) 230/160

Onion (green) 280/180

Orange 600/250

Pepper (hot) 430/430

Pepper (sweet) 200/150

Potato 210/160

Tomato 520/380

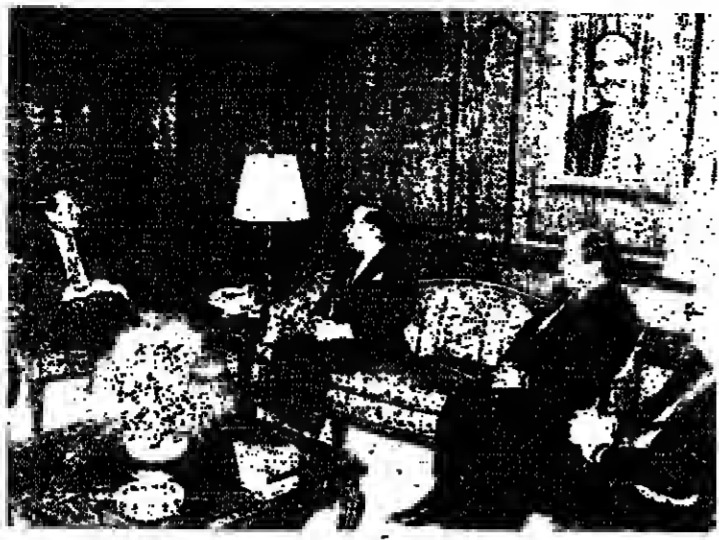
Squash 250/200

Visiting London mayor tours Amman municipal services

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lord Mayor of London Hubert Nemeth met here Monday with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and discussed means of bolstering cooperation between the London and Amman municipalities.

The prime minister expressed hope that the two cities will open new scopes for wider cooperation in municipal matters.

Mr. Nemeth, who was accompanied by Harley Marshall, a member of the London Municipal Council, said he was impressed with his tour of various parts of the Jordanian capital, where he inspected municipal services and



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker meets with visiting Lord Mayor of London Hubert Nemeth, (centre) who is accompanied by Amman Mayor Mohammad Bashir (Petra photo)

archaeological sites.

Amman Mayor Mohammad Bashir, who hosted the lord mayor during his three-day visit

in Amman, said he accompanied Mr. Nemeth to several places of interest in Amman and historical sites outside the city.



A UNESCO sponsored meeting Monday opens in Amman to discuss educational reform programmes in the Arab World (Petra photo)

Arab delegates gather to review educational reform

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from 17 Arab countries gathered Monday at the Jerusalem Hotel in Amman for a regional meeting on educational reform in the Arab World, organised by the Amman office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The Ministry of Education, a co-sponsor of the meeting, said the delegates plan to coordinate their 'countries' programmes in educational reform as proposed by UNESCO, with a view to

promoting education in the Arab World. Ministry Secretary General Munther Al Masri opened the meeting planned to submit a report to the Kingdom's moves towards overhauling and invigorating the educational process.

Calling on the Arab governments to adopt educational systems characterised by flexibility, Dr. Masri said that such a move is needed to help the Arab World deal with the challenges of the

modern age. UNESCO representative Abdul Qader Al Atrash reviewed a working plan on educational reform to be implemented in the Arab World between 1992 and 1995.

He said each participant in the meeting planned to submit a report on his country's achievements in basic education, and the teaching of science and technology, as well as the training of teachers and educational planning.

National campaign begins against dangerous vehicle fumes emissions

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) Monday embarked on a nation-wide campaign aimed at eliminating the dangers of vehicle fumes emissions.

RSCN President Anis Muasher announced earlier that the increasing amounts of fumes from car exhausts, particularly those emitted by diesel oil engines, were causing a great deal of concern to the health authorities as a real health hazard to the public.

He said the fumes were the result of lack of proper maintenance of vehicles and stressed that this should be immediately halted.

The RSCN Wednesday will hold a meeting to prepare workplans for the establishments participating in the campaign to eliminate emissions pollution.

These establishments are the Public Transport Corporation, the Armed Forces, the Traffic Department, the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, the Greater Amman Municipality

and the Land Transport Federation.

Participants in the meeting will also include representatives of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the Environment Department, the Jordanian Society for Combating Environmental Pollution and the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents.

Participants will present proposals and ideas on the best means to make the campaign a success and ways to rid the country of the dangers of car exhaust fumes.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regional power linkage panel meets

AMMAN (J.T.) — A technical committee following upon the implementation of a power linkage project between Jordan and four other Middle Eastern countries Monday opened a meeting in Amman. Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Arafah said the panel will examine steps to be implemented in the

first stage of the project that will benefit Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Turkey and Syria.

First group of Jordanian pilgrims arrive in Medina

AL MEDINA AL MUNAWWARA, Saudi Arabia (Petra) — The first congregations of Jordanian pilgrims to Mecca and Medina started to arrive here late Sunday, according to Yahya Kokash who heads the Jordanian pilgrimage delegation.

PSD announces summer regulations for crossing to West Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Monday announced a programme to facilitate travel to the Israeli-occupied Arab territories via the King Hussein Bridge, noting that it will open traveller registration centres on May 22.

This year registration is starting earlier than usual to avoid the problems encountered last year and to save travellers time and effort, the PSD announcement said. It said registration offices will be opened in the Amman, Zarqa, Irbid and Balqa governorates, and each office will have a daily quota of the number of people permitted to cross the bridge.

In the Amman region, where six registration offices will open, 1,800 travellers will be allowed to cross each day except Fridays, when only 500 will be given permits, said the PSD.

In the Zarqa region, the three registration offices will have a quota of 900 travellers daily, except Fridays, when the quota will be 300.

In the Irbid governorate, two registration offices will have a quota of 230 travellers daily, except Fridays, when the quota will drop to 25. The Balqa region's one registration office will open to allow 200 travellers to cross daily, except Fridays, when 50 people will be allowed to pass.

According to the announcement, these offices will open from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., except on public holidays and Fridays.

The offices normally open in early June each year in order to organise travel across the King Hussein Bridge and remain open during the summer holidays when most of the travellers, many of whom come from the Gulf re-

gion, make the trip to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The PSD also said arrangements are being made with Royal Jordanian (RJ) to register expatriates living abroad, in a first-time move to help reduce the pressure on local registration offices.

It noted that June 6 through 9 is reserved for pilgrims returning from Saudi Arabia and heading for the occupied lands.

The announcement pointed out that non-Arab travellers to the West Bank can go directly to the bridge without prior reservations.

Those travelling with the Red Cross and those accompanying funerals to the West Bank will have separate arrangements for travel at the bridge, the PSD added.

The PSD said, however, that West Bank residents holding permits that are due to expire can call at the Ministry of Interior's Follow-Up and Inspection Department to have their names included among travellers, within the shortest possible period.

Jordanian visitors going to the occupied territories, the announcement noted, should obtain temporary passports at the Passport Department.

Foreign travellers, including tourist groups, should obtain permits from the Interior Ministry in Amman before the trip. The PSD reminds foreign nationals that those whose passports have been stamped by the Israeli authorities will not be permitted to enter Jordan.

The PSD cautioned travellers that they can carry no more than JD 2,000 in Jordanian currency or a corresponding sum in foreign currency when travelling to the occupied territories, but no other Arab currencies.

TCC says 1997 will bring 250,000 new phone lines

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The waiting list for telephone lines in the Kingdom is sure to grow in a year when the current exchange is used to its full capacity.

A partial expansion project by the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) would meet the current demand in certain parts of the capital, but new telephone lines would not be available until new exchanges are installed under a five-year development programme, TCC Director General Ahmad Nawawi said Monday.

The \$250 million project is expected to be finished in 1997 and would provide 250,000 new

telephone lines; 50,000 more than the Kingdom's projected demand of 200,000 lines, Mr. Nawawi told a press conference organised to mark International Telecommunications Day.

"There has been no major expansion project since 1986, and the (existing) 300,000 line capacity," he said, attributing the failure to build new exchanges that would have prevented the shortages to the lack of funds.

The new expansion project, for which tenders will be offered by the end of the year, will be financed by the Treasury which collects the revenue of the TCC, Mr. Nawawi said.

Mr. Nawawi said the corpora-

tion is also planning to offer tenders for a new computer system that will facilitate its operations and ensure better maintenance and billing services for customers.

He said the computerised programme is part of a development process of administrative and financial operations, which lagged behind the previously, heavily emphasised technical aspects of TCC work.

The TCC marked the international day for telecommunications under the slogan of "Better Relations with the Media to Provide Better Services for Citizens." Activities included the organisation of media visits to several TCC offices and the satellite station at Baqa'a.



Telecommunications Corporation Director General Ahmad Nawawi Monday reviews the \$250,000 telephone exchange expansion project with journalists following a press conference to mark International Telecommunications Day.

Landslides seminar ends

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day seminar on means of tackling the problem of landslides on the Amman-Jerash-Irbid highway project concluded Monday at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing.

Landslides have been the main reason for delaying work in the project.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of the Young Muslim Women's Society at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Art exhibition entitled "Fragments: Weavings and Works on Paper" by Kevin A. Hinch and Margaret M. Hinch at the American Centre.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Suha Katibah Noursi at the Spanish Cultural.

★ Art exhibition of works by artists from Jordan, Iraq and Morocco at Alla Art Gallery.

★ Children's illustration exhibition by Laila Abdul Sahib at the British Council.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Adnan Al Sharif at Bahadur Art Gallery.

LECTURE

★ Lecture, with slide show, on "American Pioneer Artists: From Naive Portraits to Sublime Landscapes" by Jordanian art critic Nelly Lama at 6 p.m. at the American Centre auditorium.

Minister urges Arab nations to pool resources for better use of science data, technology

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi Monday said Jordan and the other Arab countries are in urgent need of modern technology to help them in the search for natural resources and surface and underground water resources, as well as in industry, agriculture and other scientific fields.

Addressing the opening session of a three-day meeting designed to establish an Arab association concerned with geographic data and remote-sensing, the minister said Arab countries ought to pool their resources and join efforts to help make the best use of scientific data that can help decision-makers and planners.

In Jordan, scientific research centres include the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC) which prepares maps, conducts land surveys and provides remote-sensing services used to

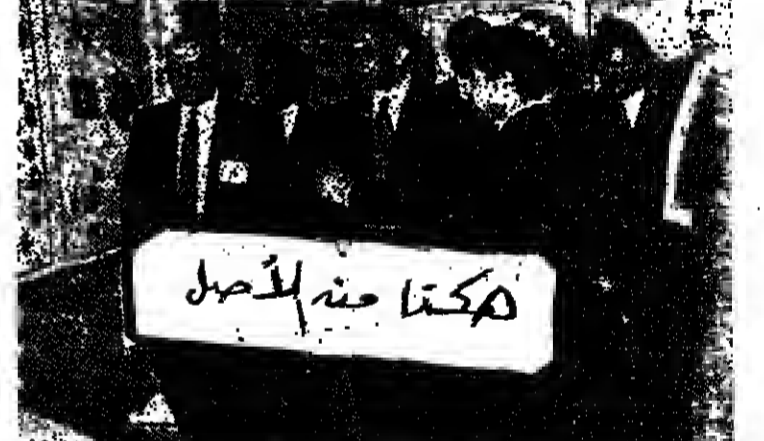
detect natural resources, said Mr. Hindawi, who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the opening session.

Mohammad Al Qimar, head of the Tunisian delegation to the meeting held at the RJGC, addressed the session on behalf of the other Arab delegations.

He welcomed the idea of establishing the association and called for closer cooperation among Arab countries.

RJGC Director Okla Dubeimat said delegations representing scientific research centres in the Arab World held an initial meeting in 1991 to discuss the creation of the association and the establishment of a regional centre for science, and land surveying.

He said it is hoped that the meeting in Amman will decide on location for the centre so that it can carry out programmes benefiting all Arab states.



Deputy Premier and Education Minister Thouqan Al Hindawi Monday tours an exhibit of the Land Survey Department of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre, which is hosting a 3-day meeting on geographic data and remote-sensing in the Arab World (Petra photo)

Delegates specialising in geography and remote-sensing in the Arab World are taking part in the meetings.

Iraq, Jordan transport panel forms new board

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Abdul Sattar Al Mai'ni left Amman for home Monday following a five-day visit to Jordan, during which he co-chaired, with Deputy Premier and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat, the general assembly meetings of the Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company.

Before his departure, Mr. Mai'ni and Mr. Suheimat signed the minutes of the meetings which focused on the company's operations last year and plans for 1993.

The general assembly learnt that the company's 1992 operations resulted in a loss, estimated at JD 42,000, and the two ministers urged more efforts in order to earn the company profits as in previous years.

According to the final statement, the general assembly de-

cided to set up new board of directors chaired by Awad Tall, the Ministry of Transport's secretary general.

The board members represent the Iraqi and Jordanian sides.

According to the board Vice Chairman Jamil Ibrahim, the company, which was established in 1981, realised profits totalling JD 30 million from its transport operations, mainly between Iraq and Jordan.

The profits he said were divided equally between Jordan and Iraq, which own equal shares in the company's capital.

The new board he added will do its best to help the company earn more profits in 1993 and in the future.

According to Mr. Tall, the company will possess 436 trucks by the end of May.

Catholic bishops to review area's inter-faith relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Christian-Arab relations, problems encountered by the Christian community under Israeli rule and plans for future Islamic-Christian cooperation will be the main topics on the agenda of a general conference by Catholic bishops opening in Amman Tuesday.

Patriarch Michael Sabbah of Jerusalem said the conference, the third of its kind in three years, will last four days and will be addressed by Nassereddin Al Assad, president of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bait Foundation), among other noted individuals, as well as the patriarchs and bishops of Catholic communities in Jerusalem, Cairo, Beirut, Baghdad and Jordan.

The meeting seeks to pave the ground for unified Islamic-Christian religious cooperation in the Arab World and the other

Arab countries, as Arab people — Christians or Muslims — belong to the same nation regardless of their faith, the patriarch said in a statement Monday.

He said the meeting will direct its attention to means of promoting further Islamic-Christian dialogue to enhance national unity as called for by His Majesty King Hussein.

Since 1991, the Catholic bishops held meetings in Lebanon and Cairo, according to Roman Catholic Bishop in Jordan Sali Sayegh.

Together the Catholic bishops meeting in Amman represent a total of six million Catholics living in the Arab World.

Bishop Sayegh said, problems related to inter-marriages between Muslims and Christians and religious education for Christian students in government schools will also be taken up at the meeting.

Saab opens new Amman showroom

AMMAN — The Swedish Ambassador to Jordan, Christian Bausch, Saturday inaugurated the new showroom of Saab cars, located at Prince Mohammad Street in Amman.

The opening ceremony was attended by several distinguished guests, businessmen and representatives of the local press.

Welcoming the guests, Mousa Sakilijan, director general of the Central Exhibitions Corporation for Trade, the agents of Saab cars in Jordan, thanked the audience for attending.

Director of Saab sales for the Middle East Stephen R. Hunt, who arrived in Amman to attend the inauguration ceremony, said the exhibition is one of the most modern and luxurious ones in the region and is situated in an important commercial area of Am-

man. He voiced the Saab Company's satisfaction over the good marketing standards of the Swedish-made cars and the unique status it has gained in Jordan.

Mr. Hunt praised the Central Exhibitions Corporation for its care and attention to Saab customers and praised the high standard of services and facilities it offers them.

Mr. Sakilijan introduced the new Saab 9000 CS model and announced that the maintenance and spare parts sections have been further upgraded. Saab cars are enjoying a unique status in Arab and international markets, in view of their advanced and distinguished technology. In addition, Saabs meet all safety requirements and are considered one of the safest cars in the world.

Specialists examine changing Arab family

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In preparation for the International Year of the Family (1994), a regional seminar on the Arab family opened Monday to discuss major related research issues.

Organised jointly by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and the regional office of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the seminar, which brings together a group of specialists, aims at promoting learning about the human development of the Arab family and at generating discussion, identifying major issues and synthesising previous research, according to Fahed Fanek, the ATF secretary-general.

"Activities carried out during the last two years leading to this seminar reflected clearly, the researchers say, the lack of basic information and references related to the Arab family, as well as the lack of comparative literature on the structure, activities and changing context of the family in the Arab World.

To fill the gap, a comprehensive bibliography was compiled by UNICEF and the Department of Anthropology at Yarmouk University.

The bibliography, which will be published soon, includes titles of all Arabic and English publications available in Jordan on various topics related to the Arab family.

The topics covered include the

family in urban and rural areas, the nomadic and tribal perception of the family, dominant values, women, labour, social control, and the attention that the governmental and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) accord to the family.

Yarmouk University post graduates prepared, in the summer of 1992, four field studies on family support systems in various parts of the Kingdom. The studies focus on the support systems and networks that enable the family to perform its varied activities.

According to Dr. Fanek, the seminar will also tackle family issues in relation to contemporary developments in the region such as the process of democratisation,

developments in education, communication and human rights.

Special attention will be paid to children's rights and to how they participate in the family, conflict resolution, family changing support systems and how child rights are viewed by adults.

Participants in the seminar come from Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, the United Kingdom, the West Bank and Jordan.

Institutions of higher research represented include King Mohammad V University, the University of Constantine, the American University in Cairo, Bir Zeit University, Cambridge University, the London School of Economics and the University of Michigan.

By Rami G. Khouri

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Ditch the ditch

THERE ARE better and more lasting ways for Kuwait to protect its existence and guard its security than to concoct stories on plots to assassinate George Bush and decide to construct a 120-mile, 9-foot deep, 16-foot wide ditch along its border with Iraq. The ditch's idea in particular reminds us of medieval times when moats were built around castles and fortifications to protect them from invaders. A better and more modern way to safeguard Kuwait's northern border, one that would cost less money and effort as well, would be for the Kuwaiti leaders to learn from past mistakes, that precipitated the Iraqi invasion of the emirate in 1990, and construct a new foundation for permanent Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations based on mutual respect and interests.

It is utterly ridiculous at this time and age to base security of a state on building walls and canals around it. Furthermore, neighbourly and brotherly relations like those between Kuwait and Iraq cannot be assumed to depend for ever on who is in power in either capital. A much more stable foundation to forge such ties is one that is based on more permanent and firm foundations, such as people to people relationships. The time will come when Baghdad and Kuwait will reestablish fraternal contacts, if not tomorrow then soon afterwards. This is somehow the inevitable truth in an Arab World which had witnessed so many quarrels and crises in the past only to solve them later.

There are several ongoing Arab efforts to heal wounds among those Arab capitals which have been torn apart by the events in the Gulf in 1990 and 1991. Unfortunately, Kuwait was the first Arab country to refuse the continuation of those efforts, the last of which was made in Cairo by the Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid.

Other Arab leaders will no doubt make new attempts to pick up where Abdul Meguid left off even though there are still no visible signs that these efforts will achieve anything. But the failure so far of all endeavours to strike once again a chord of harmony in the Arab World is no excuse to discontinue pursuing the necessary and noble cause. Hopefully something concrete could be salvaged before Kuwait goes through with its self-defeating and useless border scheme.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WHILE THE Arabs and the Israelis were holding their ninth round of talks in Washington, the Israeli forces were escalating their aggression against the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said Al-Dustour daily Monday. This is clearly an indication that Israel was merely exploiting the talks as a cover for its aggression and criminal actions, said the daily. Although Israel's repression has not ceased for one day throughout the past years of occupation, its inhuman practices intensified during the peace negotiations, continued the paper. Indeed, the outcome of the aborted session proved beyond doubt this view about Israel's intentions and undermined the fact that Israel is playing for time and continually rejecting peace bids, the paper continued. Instead of adopting an attitude that would create an appropriate atmosphere for the success of the negotiations, added the daily, Israel intensified the murder of Palestinians and the demolishing of their houses, thus weakening the position of the Palestinian delegation to the talks and giving rise to further feelings of frustration with the whole peace process. The paper urged Arab parties to the peace talks to demand that Israel totally halt all its inhuman practices against the Palestinian people and take appropriate steps to reflect a true desire for peace before any future session can be held.

A COLUMNIST in Al-Dustour daily Monday tackled the Lebanese government's decision to close Al-Safir newspaper for a week for publishing a document outlining Israel's proposals to Lebanon during the ninth round of talks in Washington. Saleh Qalab said that as long as the document concerned national issues, it had to be available to the public and not kept secret from the Lebanese people. Al-Safir daily acted logically and with national responsibility by publishing the so-called secret document since, he said, newspapers published in countries not regarded as ruled by dictatorships should be free. If the document was indeed secret, it would mean that it contained matters which were considered taboo for the public, the writer continued. Since the document contained nothing pertinent to the armed forces or national security, Al-Safir did not commit any crime, he added. Al-Safir is not one of those newspapers considered serving as agents in the pay of the enemy, and not one of those papers bent on further deepening inter-Arab divisions, noted the writer. He said that the Jordanian media and people ought to support the Lebanese daily paper in the face of unjust closure and in the face of suspect transactions being conducted in secret behind the people's backs.

The View from Fourth Circle

A substantial nation, substantially untapped

Every year around this time, I take advantage of the publication of the Unified Arab Economic Report to take a bird's eye view of the economic and human condition of the Arab region. This is always a painful but useful exercise, and I believe that it offers a very clear and accurate explanation for the otherwise perplexing cycle of violence, instability and tension that has defined the Arab World in the last decade.

The Unified Arab Economic Report — published annually and jointly by the Arab Monetary Fund, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries — includes an analysis of recent economic trends, and a statistical appendix of major economic and social indicators in all Arab countries. It is a most professional and useful volume, for which the three sponsoring institutions need to be thanked every year.

The 1992 volume starts off with the rather sobering news that the Gulf war cost the Arab World a total of \$676 billion, between war spending, lost income, suspended trade and aid transfers, and destruction of infrastructure in Iraq and Kuwait. Most of that money was either denied the Arab people or transferred to the western industrial economies.

The reality reflected in the statistics is that the Arab World, taken as a whole, remains mired in stagnation, debt, militarism, government control, and greater economic pressures on individuals, families and communities. The statistics are as follows:

— Total Arab gross domestic product (GDP) in current prices decreased between 1980 and 1991, from \$431 billion to \$420 billion, while total Arab population increased from 165 million to 230 million.

— Consequently, per capita GDP (the output of goods and services per person) decreased in the last eleven years from \$2612 to \$1826 — a full 30 per cent drop. In fact, for most Arabs, living standards declined even more, due to the impact of inflation, currency devaluations, economic adjustment programmes, import controls, and other factors on the real purchasing power of families.

— The average total Arab annual population growth rate decreased from 4 per cent in 1980 to 2.6 per cent in 1991, though the rate in the largest countries (Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, Algeria, etc.) remains very high (3.1 per cent). This portends continued pressures on water, jobs, shelter, food, and other basic human needs in the region for many years to come, until the population stabilises and a more rational balance is struck between population growth and the fragile natural resource base. The sustained decline in per capita GDP over the 1980s is one of the first and gravest signs of serious disequilibrium in the modern Arab people/resources equation.

— The annual food gap (difference between domestic production and total consumption) in the Arab World increased from \$11.9b. in 1980 to \$14.3 billion in 1990, and total Arab food

imports in that decade were worth \$149 billion. Food imports in 1990 alone were worth \$23.2 billion.

— Between 1985 and 1990, total Arab foreign debt increased from \$115b. to \$152b. (the real figure is probably close to \$250b., given the tendency of many Arab governments to camouflage foreign debt via semi-state enterprises or, in the case of military debt, not to declare it at all). Annual Arab foreign debt service payments (principal and interest) increased in that period from \$10.4b. to \$16.9b.

— Public expenditure as a percentage of GDP declined from 43 per cent in 1985 to 34 per cent in 1990, but rose again to 43 per cent in 1991, i.e. with government spending playing such an important role in the total national economy, the fate and direction of Arab society will continue to be closely linked to political and financial power in the hands of a small group of

“With government spending playing such an important role in the total national economy, the fate and direction of Arab society will continue to be closely linked to political and financial power in the hands of a small group of usually non-elected, self-imposed government officials — mostly the same cast of characters responsible for the current contorted state of the Arab region.”

usually non-elected, self-imposed government officials — mostly the same cast of characters responsible for the current contorted state of the Arab region.

— Defence and security spending as a percentage of total Arab current expenditures increased from 24 per cent in 1990 to 29 per cent in 1991, i.e. the Arab people will continue to suffer the damage of the Gulf war for years to come, in the form of distorted and exaggerated government military expenditures on weapons systems that cannot, on their own, protect the Arab countries or regimes.

— Arab trade continues to rely on global markets, with little inter-Arab economic activity. Arab exports and imports were worth a total of \$197b. in 1985, and \$247b. in 1990, but inter-Arab trade only accounted for 8 per cent of total Arab foreign trade in 1990 (a sign of hope: this 8 per cent was a slight improvement over the 7.6 per cent level in 1985).

— Despite these unsatisfactory trends, the Arab World remains relatively well endowed with natural and financial resources and could play a more important role in global affairs were it able to summon the necessary political courage. Proven Arab oil reserves increased from 507 billion barrels in 1987 to 631 billion barrels in 1991 (from 57 per cent to 62 per cent of world oil reserves).

— Arab oil income increased from \$58 billion in 1987 to an annual average of \$98 billion in 1990 and 1991.

— Arab vulnerabilities remain high, however, as oil income accounted for 67 per cent of government income in the oil-producing states in 1991, compared to 62 per cent in 1985. A more positive sign is that non-oil-producing Arab states have increased the share of taxes in their government income (from 55 per cent in 1985 to 69 per cent in 1991).

— Another constructive sign is that Arab governments continue to offer aid to those who need it. Even though total aid disbursements declined from \$9.5b. in 1980 to \$6.3b. in 1990, aid and contract flows tend to follow political relationships today (Egypt, Turkey, etc.), there is honour in the fact that Arab states continue to provide aid while the Arab region is in such a difficult economic condition.

These are just some of the interesting realities revealed by the Unified Arab Economic Report, but they should be read carefully. For the deeper, more worrying sub-reality beneath these statistics is that the Arab region is slowly cleaving into a small minority of relatively cash-rich oil producers with few people, and a large majority of cash-poor Arabs with many people. The consequences of such a cleavage are already obvious: in the last decade, the gruesome combination of population pressures, resource imbalances, and inadequate systems of political decision-making resulted in mass economic regression or stagnation, social tension, political violence, and more and more frequently, national crises of coherence (Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan), governance (Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Djibouti), or survival (Kuwait, Iraq, Somalia). The rest of the Arab states are in better shape, but not always by much.

I suspect that the whole point of producing such a report that tracks Arab conditions and trends is to suggest subtly that a more economically integrated region would probably be more coherent, productive, and stable. I don't want to read too much into the motives of those who produce this impressive report, but I do want to thank and commend them for excellence in the technical compilation of this volume, and courage in its unspoken political and national overtones.

This is who we are and how we fare today. The current regional picture may be gloomy, but our underlying human, cultural, spiritual and economic strengths remain substantial and substantially untapped.

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Ethnic pride confounds the census

By Felicity Barringer

SINCE THE founding of the republic, after Germany exported the science of statistics, fueling the 19th century's rage to classify absolutely everything, the United States government has dispatched census takers to classify everyone in sight — by sex, by property and most importantly, by race. On the census form, people get a chance to match their sense of their own identity with the government's classifications. Increasingly, if the 1990 census is to be believed, people find no match. Offered four different basic choices of race — white, black, American Indian/Alaskan Native and Asian/Pacific Islander — 10 million Americans, most of them later determined to be Hispanic, marked “Other.”

So who are we, anyway? In the 203 years since census takers first fanned out, 26 racial categories have been used, according to Reynolds Farley, a University of Michigan demographer. As planning for the year 2000's census begins, experts believe there will be more racial groups to choose from than ever.

The government has found a new way to classify its people virtually every decade. Even the two sturdiest categories — “White” and “Negro/Black” — have been taken apart every now and again. In 1980, census takers were given guides to help them be “particularly careful to distinguish between blacks, mulattoes, quadroons and octoroons.”

When it came to classifying who was “white,” the Supreme Court got involved in the early 1920s. After several foreigners applied for citizenship available only to whites, the court made the following distinctions: Armenians and Syrians were “white,” Japanese and those from the Indian subcontinent were not.

In 1930, nine racial classifications were on the census: “White, Negro, Mexican, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Hindu and Korean.” In 1940, the Mexican classification was gone; Mexican-Americans had complained.

Now put racial history on fast-forward, through the civil rights movement, into an era when it seemed that the best government was colour-blind government. For a couple of years in the late 1960s, Dr. Farley said, New Jersey stopped classifying babies by race. This didn't last.

In 1978, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued Statistical Directive 15, the basis of modern racial and ethnic classifications.

Originally, OMB wanted to declare that Asian Indians were white — the reverse of the declaration the Supreme Court made in 1923. But in the half-century since then, “nonwhite” status had begun to have compensations:

the new crop of affirmative action policies, minority contracting set-asides and antidiscrimination laws.

“Persons with origins from the Indian subcontinent were moved from the ‘Caucasian/White’ category” after the Association of Indians in America successfully lobbied to be included in the ‘Asian/Pacific Islander’ category,” said Juanita Tamayo Lott, president of a demographic consulting firm.

This has become a typical sequence of events for government statisticians. There is nothing like changing racial attitudes to wreak havoc with the orderly progress of statistics.

For instance, in the 1970s, racial pride was becoming a central element of the culture. As more people searched for an ethnic identity, numbers in some groups swelled quickly. Jeffrey Passel, an Urban Institute demographer, said birth and death records indicated that the American Indian population increased by 760,000 between 1970 and 1990. But the number of people telling the census they were American Indians rose by 1.4 million.

In 1990, according to Harry Scarr, the Census Bureau's acting director, 8 per cent of the 1.8 million people who said they were American Indians then identified themselves as members of these tribes: Haitian, Polish, African-American, Hispanic or Arab.

Hispanic, introduced as an ethnic category (under “Spanish surname”) in 1970, has not been considered a racial subgroup since 1930. As a result, in the 1980 and 1990 censuses — and probably in the year 2000 — the group that is eventually expected to become the largest nonwhite population has no racial classification. In 1980, about 40 per cent of Hispanic respondents marked “Other Race.”

There are more battles of ethnic identity to come. Some Hawaiians, for instance, want to be classified “Native American,” not “Pacific Islander.” But the biggest conceptual fight, the experts expect, will come from a growing generation who want neither assimilation nor a single group identity. As Mr. Scarr put it, “some advocates argue that census procedures — in fact all governmental and administrative systems — do not allow persons of mixed parentage to report their ‘true racial identity.’”

In 1990, about 28 per cent of those answering an open-ended “ancestry” question listed two or more ethnic groups, like “Irish and Ukrainian.” But some children of white-black or white-Asian parents identify simply as “mixed,” and they want the census to let them do this officially.

It is unclear whether the government will do that — The New York Times.



Cuba seeks Clinton's ear to talk about better ties

By Pascal Fletcher
Reuters

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba — Cuba, squeezed by economic recession and a U.S. trade embargo, is sending strong signals to U.S. President Bill Clinton that it is willing to talk about ending three decades of mutual enmity.

If Mr. Clinton is listening, he has shown little sign of it. Unless you count a slightly softer tone of language used by the new Democratic administration to refer to the communist-ruled Caribbean island, in contrast to the open verbal aggression of its Republican predecessors.

“I think that at some point, we're going to have to start talking,” Roberto Robaina, Cuba's energetic, 37-year-old new foreign minister told reporters this week during a visit to Guantanamo Bay in eastern Cuba.

The U.S. Navy maintains a base there against the wishes of Cuba's communist government, which condemns it as a “dagger in our side” and an illegal occupation of its sovereign territory.

Cuban and U.S. soldiers watch each other daily through binoculars and gun sights across the 28 kilometres base perimeter sown with mines and bristling with barbed wire.

Mr. Robaina went on: “And if we want to talk about conditions, let's just talk about one — simply mutual respect.”

While this Cuban position is not new, it was the latest in a series of clear public signals sent by Havana to the Clinton administration since it took office in January.

“If we are going to sit down and talk, then there are three issues which will have to be on the table: the U.S. Guantanamo Bay base, the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba and a U.S. government-funded television station that broadcasts anti-communist programmes to Cuba.”

The overtures have even come from Veteran Cuban President Fidel Castro, who has spent a lifetime condemning U.S. “imperialism”. He has said Mr. Clinton appears to be “a man of peace and ethics” and described Hillary Clinton as “beautiful”. But this Cuban flirtation with Mr. Clinton does not appear to be enough so far to melt the frost off the cold war animosity that has characterised U.S.-Cuban relations for more than 30 years following Mr. Castro's 1959 re-

volution.

Even as Mr. Robaina briefed foreign journalists at Guantanamo Bay on Tuesday, U.S. fighter bombers, barely visible in the midday haze, dropped practice bombs in the salt marshes inside the U.S. base perimeter, sending up plumes of water and smoke.

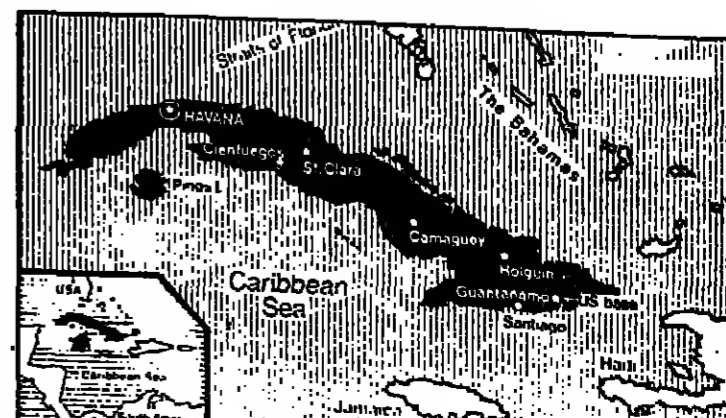
The sound of the explosions which rumbled around the surrounding mountains may have reminded onlookers of the big obstacles that block the path to better U.S.-Cuban ties.

Mr. Robaina spelled them out: “If we are going to sit down and talk, then in my opinion there are three issues which will have to be on the table.” These were the U.S. Guantanamo Bay base, the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba and a U.S. government-funded television station, TV Marti, that broadcasts anti-communist programmes to Cuba.

Not only have Mr. Clinton and his top advisers shown no sign of budging on any of these issues that irritate Mr. Castro. They have even publicly reaffirmed their support for them.

The Pentagon has said that it has no plans to withdraw U.S. forces from Guantanamo Bay, even though practically all of the last remaining former Soviet combat troops in Cuba have been recalled from the island by the Russian government. The U.S. has said it wants to close several U.S. military bases to cut defence costs, but Guantanamo is not among them.

Mr. Clinton and his advisers have reconfirmed their backing for legislation passed in the final days of George Bush's administration that sharply tightened the trade embargo against Cuba, targeting the island's commercial shipping.



Postcard Kashmir scarred by violence

By Raju Gopalakrishnan
Reuter

SRINAGAR — On a shady willow-lined avenue in Indian-ruled Kashmir, an armed paramilitary trooper waves vehicles to a stop. Muslim rebels have attacked a paramilitary police post at the road crossing ahead and investigations are in progress, he says. Some 100 yards away, two dead bodies lie on the road and a woman is cradling an injured man in her lap. Police use rifle butts and boots on a group of young men who squat, stripped to the waist.

"Take your clothes off," one trooper bellows at a boy hustled forward from behind a parked van. He joins the group crouching on the ground, shivering in the breeze of a chilly spring morning.

About half an hour later, the injured man goes off in an ambulance and the dead bodies are loaded on to a truck. Some of the detained men are cuffed on the head and told to leave. Others are taken away, their hands held high, in a police jeep.

Traffic is waved on. In the evening, a government statement lists the incident among at least half a dozen other shootings in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

At least 15 people were killed in Kashmir on that day. The government statement said one of the three victims caught in return fire from the police post was among the militants who attacked the picket.

Kashmir, where dramatic snow-capped mountains tower over cool lakes and green pastures, was once India's favourite holiday spot.

It is the only Muslim-majority state in the country and its fiery people have for years har-

boured a resentment at being ruled by overwhelmingly Hindu India.

In January 1990 Islamic rebels began to back their demands for a split from India with violence. Since then, police and hospitals have reported at least 11,500 people killed. Tourists have abandoned the picture-postcard state.

Human rights activists accuse security forces of killing suspected militants in custody, of routinely torturing suspects, of raping women, of looting houses during searches.

"It is a genocide of young and able-bodied persons, irrespective of whether they are militants or innocents," says Mufti Bahaudin Farooqi, a former top judge who heads a local human rights organisation.

"Anyone who is captured alive, if he is a militant or is suspected of being one, is killed," he said. "It is a free-for-all. A soldier can kill anybody without accountability."

The Indian government acknowledges that there have been some human rights abuses, but says those found guilty have been punished and most of the charges are militant propaganda.

It complains that human rights organisations ignore abuses by militants. Mr. Farooqi said courts have not functioned in Kashmir since the open revolt began in early 1990.

He adds, cautiously, that militants are not free from blame. "A gun is a powerful weapon in the hand of a young boy. There are chances he may misuse that power," he says.

Kashmir residents are loath to speak against the militancy to reporters and almost all say they support the movement for independence or merger with Islamic neighbour Pakistan.

"If I take off my uniform and have to fend for myself in Srin-

gar, I will also talk the language of the militants," said senior police Superintendent K. Rajendra Kumar.

He said the rebels were ruthless toward civilians who opposed them, and that several women who were raped by them had sought protection from the police.

Despite the harsh crackdown on the militancy, led by the army and paramilitary forces, rebel leaders appear to move about freely.

Javed Ahmed Mir, a rebel leader and one of the most wanted men in the Himalayan territory, took a Reuters correspondent on a walk through the centre of Srinagar in front of scores of armed Kashmiri and paramilitary policemen.

Heads turned in the crowded street as Mr. Mir, a 28-year-old man wearing dark glasses, blue jeans and a black windcheater, limped through, his leg hurt by a bullet.

At a hotel being used as a relief centre for victims of the insurgency, Mr. Mir was frisked by a state policeman and let into the building. "We've checked out this place, it's safe," Mr. Mir said without elaborating.

In the building, scores of people came forward to greet Mr. Mir. He is recognised by almost every Kashmiri, including the state constabulary, said people in the room.

The insurgency has touched the lives of all Kashmiris.

"We want peace," says the desk clerk checking journalists out of the only functioning hotel in Srinagar. "But we also want independence. India should just leave us alone."

Police officer Kumar says if he went strictly by the law, he would have to arrest every resident of the valley. "Anyone who utters the word independence can be arrested. That means everyone."

Prosecutor's life and death still bear fruit

By Frances D'Emilio
The Associated Press

PALERMO, Sicily — In this city where so many heroes have died, the hopes of Sicilians keep growing, fed by the memory of Giovanni Falcone's unflinching determination to wrest his island from Cosa Nostra's centuries-old grip.

So well did he do his job that a year after the blast that killed him on a highway near Palermo, Falcone's legacy is still sending shockwaves, some reaching as far as Rome.

Mafiosi whose trust and respect Falcone won have helped put his colleagues on the trail of suspected ties between the Mafia and leading politicians. The senate last week voted to lift Giulio Andreotti's parliamentary immunity so Palermo prosecutors can pursue the turncoats' allegations that the former premier met with Cosa Nostra bosses.

And from his last post, in the Justice Ministry in Rome, Falcone designed and then successfully lobbied for laws making it safer for mobsters who want out of Cosa Nostra to come over to the side of the state.

"Pentiti," as the turncoats are called, are emerging at the rate of nearly one a day. Their information has led to dozens of raids. One of this new crop of collaborators even helped bring about the capture in January of Cosa Nostra's "boss of bosses," Salvatore "Totò" Riina — a fugitive for 23 years.

Perhaps most important, even after a convulsive year of corruption scandals that discredited Italy's ruling class, is what didn't happen.

When, in 1982, the state's then-top Mafia fighter Gen. Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa was gunned down in Sicily, one Palermitano scrawled on a wall: "Here died

the hope of honest Sicilians."

Now, instead of despairing, hundreds of Palermo's citizens rally every few weeks in front of the courthouse, holding banners cheering on the prosecutors investigating Mr. Andreotti.

Such encouragement means a lot to investigators like Leonardo Guarnotta, who works at what was Falcone's desk in a shuttered office with a bullet-proof door in Palermo's courthouse.

He and Falcone worked

together in the early 1980s, part of a now-disbanded team of anti-Mafia magistrates. "We felt alone," Mr. Guarnotta said. "Perhaps this is the decisive moment to win the battle" against the Mafia.

The tree outside Falcone's apartment building is covered with messages scribbled on not-book paper by schoolchildren and stationery by adults.

Bagloads of the messages were sorted through by Falcone's fami-

ly to make a book called "The Falcone Tree". Sales will help pay for studies of youngsters who want to be magistrates or do police work; enrollment in Palermo University's Law Department soared after Falcone's death.

Scholarships are targeted for children for Palermo's slums, where the Mafia recruit many of their drug dealers, extortionists and murderers.

In a country — and especially in Sicily and elsewhere in the south — where applying for a license to drive or start up a business often depends on connections, Falcone had a different philosophy of working for the state.

He talked often about how "the powers you had can't be considered a privilege but a means to render a service," Mr. Guarnotta recalled.

Falcone also was a brave man. Many of the notes pinned on the tree wish the same courage to the investigators of today, shaken further by the death of Paolo Borsellino, Italy's other top Mafia investigator. A bomb killed him and five police escorts on a Palermo street two months after Falcone's death.

"He was a strong man in every sense," says Anna Falcone of her younger brother. "I only heard him voice his fear once," she said, in June 1989, after a bomb was found outside his seaside summer house. "He said, 'I'm a walking corpse.'"

"When he came home after (Tommaso) Buscetta testified in court against mob bosses he was euphoric. He thought it was an extraordinary moment," Anna Falcone said of the 1986-1987 trial her brother prosecuted. Buscetta, a Mafia turncoat whose testimony has also put American mob bosses in jail, would only "sing" to Falcone, a fellow Sicilian he regarded as an honourable



Salvatore Riina

man. For Falcone's colleagues, no victory is safe. Mr. Andreotti, for instance, is lobbying for fewer guarantees of protection from prosecution for Pentiti, a move that would likely discourage the Mafia defections Falcone worked so hard to win.

And prosecutors still have to battle age-old Sicilian thinking that loyalties belong to the family, not the law.

The mother of a young woman who had begun collaborating with Borsellino refused in shame to attend the funeral of the daughter, who committed suicide in despair after Borsellino's death.

Falcone and his wife, Francesca Morvillo, a judge who worked with Palermo's juvenile delinquents, chose not to have children because of their dangerous life.

"You didn't want children," said a torn, smudged sheet of paper left at the fig tree by Luisa, a schoolgirl from Naples. "I would have wanted you as a daddy."



GIOVANNI FALCONE: The judge who fell victim to the Mafia but whose legacy has born fruit (World News Link photo)

The danger lurking in a pair of socks

By Francoise Kadri
Agence France Presse

BONN — Always in the forefront on environmental issues, the Germans are now sounding the alarm about the use of toxic products which can turn wool or cotton clothes into a health hazard.

"According to two consumer bodies and the opposition Social Democrat Party (SPD), we might all be prey to eczema, intense fatigue, conjunctivitis and even cancer due to wearing shirts, sweaters, underpants or socks."

It is, they say, the products used by the textile industry in dyes or to make materials softer, easier to iron or harder to crease which are responsible.

More than 8,000 products rang-

ing from the harmless starch to very toxic substances such as benzidine or pentaclorophenol are used to impregnate clothing materials.

"Some compound such as rat-poison, used as a bleaching agent and which can cause cancer, or resins containing formaldehyde, should be banned immediately," said Lilo Blunck, an SPD deputy with responsibility for consumer affairs.

Another SPD deputy, Regina Schmidt-Zadel said that just one year's sales of clothing items in Germany required 100,000 tonnes of additives which stay in the material and 12,000 tonnes of dye.

Bernard Kuehnle of the consumers association Die Ver-

braucher Initiative said it is not only the environment that is polluted by such products, and that the workers of all connected industries as well as the consumers who are at risk.

A survey by the association among physicians found that cases of acute allergies to lights or underpants, attributable to chemical products in the material they are made of, are on the increase.

Unlike cosmetics, the toxic nature and possible danger to health to products used in clothing items are neither controlled by law nor clearly pointed out to the consumer, said Mr. Kuehnle, accord-

ing to whom a black or dark-blue T-shirt is eight to 10 per cent composed of chemical products and dye.

But he added that the control of textiles is complicated by the fact that 85 per cent of those sold in Germany are imported, generally from Third World countries.

The German Health Office in 1992 set up a working group responsible for investigating the toxic nature of textile conditioning products, but has so far not come up with any finding at all, according to Mr. Blunck.

On the clothes industry side, 16 "green" manufacturers have drawn up guidelines regarding the sale of clothing items, and

several designers have launched "ecological lines".

The German Textile Industry Union has itself created two labels guaranteeing the non-toxic nature of its materials and an environment-friendly manufacturing process.

But Mr. Kuehnle said that the standards set by the union were too lax and allowed the whole of the textile industry to claim to be "green".

Which is why the consumer associations say the most dangerous substances currently being used must be banned by law, and the usage of others strictly limited in their concentration.



Kashmir's cool lakes and green pastures, once India's favourite holiday spot, is today a place of insurgency, demanding independence (file photo)

Enterprising Chechens beat blockade on their rebel republic

By Vanora Bennett
Reuter

GROZNY, Russia — Two years ago, Said was just a Soviet citizen from the despised, backward south. Now he owns a fleet of expensive foreign cars, a mansion and a lot of weapons.

At 32, he has grey streaks in his black hair. "It's the stress," he says ruefully.

For Said it has been a normal day busting an economic blockade imposed by Moscow since the Chechnya Republic, of which Grozny is the capital, declared independence from the Russian Federation in 1991. It is a job he does well and, like many of his compatriots, he is doing well out of it.

After a lavish dinner, a silent employee brings a bag containing a wad of neatly wrapped banknotes about 30 cm thick, to pay off a visiting Russian middle man. When the bundles are unwrapped it is clear that each banknote is a new \$100 bill.

Said — not his real name — blames the rebel government of his remote Transcaucasian region for an economic situation brought about, he says, by clumsy handling of the break with Moscow. Like almost every Chechen, he is happier when not ruled by Russia. This warlike Muslim race was subjugated by imperial Russia in last century after decades of fierce armed resistance.

"Of course we can live quite happily without Moscow," he had said earlier, during a 400-kilometre ride in a white BMW through the foothills of the Caucasus.

"Russia is one big political blunder these days. Who needs it? But our government should have normalised our economic ties with Russia right at the start and avoided this blockade."

Said says the government of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev went out of its way at the start to be aggressive to Moscow, to pander to peasant nationalism at home and dig itself into power — and failed to feed its own people when the blockade started.

"It makes me laugh when I turn on the television and I see some government official boasting about how he's organised five trucks of potatoes for Grozny," he said with a shrug. "I bring in 30 trucks practically every week, and that's only a start."

It isn't always easy. On the five-hour trip from the south Russian regional capital of Stavropol, Said's luxury car with its Chechen plates was stopped, searched or fined no less than 17 times by suspicious traffic police or Russian soldiers.

Said's route home takes him through Chechnya's neighbour, the mountain region of Ingushetia, where Moscow imposed a state of emergency last November after ethnic clashes with another Russian-ruled people, the North Ossetians.

At an army checkpoint, blond Russian soldiers loomed up from behind a razor-wire fence where armoured cars were topped with grenade launchers.

A single shot rang out as an officer asked: "Hey, you Chechen are you carrying weapons, explosives or narcotics in this car?" "No," came Said's carefree reply. "I left them all at home today."

His stereo played an eastern-style pop song, its chirpy Chechen words and rebellious message lost on the Russians. Said used to have one bank account in Grozny. Since the blockade was imposed, Russia's Central Bank has refused to carry out financial transfers to Che-

nya. But Said isn't worried — he has simply opened five new accounts across Russia.

He travels between the commodity exchanges of the rich southern farming towns, buying food, cars and mechanical equipment and paying for his deals from the nearest account. When he needs money in Grozny, he puts it in his pocket and takes it there.

"Of course Moscow considers that sort of thing illegal," he said with a laugh. Last year a Chechen organised crime group used false transfers to acquire 60 billion roubles (then worth \$700 million) in the biggest bank fraud in Russian history.

"It's Moscow that's forcing crime on us with this blockade," Said added. "We Chechens are a hardworking race and their rules won't stop us. They can call it crime if they want."

Russia sees things differently. It accuses the Chechen mafia, operating across the sprawling federation, of using violence and intimidation to fix market prices and flagrantly violate the new free-market system Moscow is trying to bring in.

"Moscow will have to accept sooner or later that the south, which has the farming wealth, wants to do business with us," Said said. "Stavropol region ignored the blockade last month and signed a huge farm goods-oil deal, for instance."

In many ways, Chechnya is still a feudal society. Chechens still avenge a violent death by killing a member of the murderer's family, rich men like Said have always protected a large number of dependents, both in their town and country homes.

A feeling of noblesse oblige pushes them to continue playing this role in the uncertain world of post-Soviet politics.



The unwitting buyer could fall prey to the textile industry's products (file photo)

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Ordinary Issue No. 9

Drawing of May 17, 1993

Winning Tickets	
Holder of ticket No. 29954 Wins JD 30,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 1,200 each wins JD 120 29955 29964 29954 20954 39954 29953 29944 29854 28954 19954
Holder of ticket No. 78159 Wins JD 7,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 700 each wins JD 70 78150 78169 78259 79159 88159 78158 78149 78059 77159 68159
Holder of ticket No. 66508 Wins JD 3,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 400 each wins JD 40 66509 66518 66608 67508 76508 66507 66598 66401 65508 56508
Holder of ticket No. 37880 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20 37881 37890 37980 38880 47880 37889 37870 37780 36880 27880
Holder of ticket No. 35368 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 150 each wins JD 15 35369 35378 35468 36368 45368 35367 35358 35268 34368 25368
Holder of ticket No. 75086 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 10 75087 75096 75186 76086 85086 75085 75076 75986 74086 65086
Holder of ticket No. 92556 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8 92557 92566 92656 93556 02556 92555 92546 92456 91556 82556
Holder of ticket No. 31131 Wins JD 800	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7 31132 31141 31231 32131 41131 31130 31121 31031 30131 21131

Ticket numbers 93525 02616 15333 56907	Win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers 40718 49387 26487	Win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH	
2622 6953 9849 Win JD 50 each	2705 6077 8963 9342 9582 Win JD 20 each
7632 1954 5661 1143 8696 Win JD 10 each	309 118 390 567 Win JD 5 each
43 Win JD 3 each	to,000 ticket ending with 7 Win JD 2 each

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Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number 8 of May 2, 1993

<p>Jafar Al-Jamali Lottery Dealer Full time JD20,000</p>	<p>Haniyeh Omar Zangari-Dehryeh Full time JD20,000</p>	<p>Mustafa Abdul Salam Zangari-Dehryeh Full time JD20,000</p>	<p>Abdullah Azzi Bilal-Dehryeh Full time JD20,000</p>	<p>Al-Sayed Abdul Jawad Amman-Dehryeh Full time JD20,000</p>	<p>Ahmad Samman Mafraq-Dehryeh Full time JD20,000</p>	<p>Ahmad Abdul Harrood Mafraq-Dehryeh Full time JD20,000</p>
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Next Draw takes place on **June 2, 1993**
First biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters

World Bank pushing for more housing investment for poor nations

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The World Bank is asking developing countries to boost investment in housing, which represents about eight per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), the bank said in a general policy document.

The bank is asking governments to review regulations and policies to make the housing market more efficient by directing more of the few government re-

sources to the poorest of the poor.

The bank will in future have the allocation of an estimated \$900 million in loans for housing annually (about seven per cent of total loans) on five principles.

1). Governments will be encouraged to improve housing markets and housing conditions for poor people.

2). Bank assistance will be oriented toward sectors, rather than particular projects.

3). The bank will help regulatory authorities in concentrate on borrowers who can and want to eliminate problems in their housing markets.

4). The bank will support innovative models for housing loans.

5). The World Bank will ask countries to improve their housing data and their analysis of such figures.

Housing investment by less developed countries totals about \$150 billion per year compared to \$520 billion in developed countries. These figures do not include former Soviet Bloc nations or Russia, where one person in four is on a waiting list for housing.

OECD: Stable Dutch economy shivers from cold in Germany

PARIS (AFP) — The Dutch economy, clad with a strong guild and low interest rates, is likely to shiver this year as GDP growth declines to less than one per cent mainly because of a downturn in Germany, the OECD forecast.

In line with most of Europe, the Dutch economy was weakening from growth of gross domestic product (GDP) of 1.6 per cent last year to probably about 0.8 per cent in 1993.

But it would rebound to around two per cent in 1994 in line with the international recovery, the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) forecast.

However these figures were "highly dependent on external developments, and risks would seem particularly high," Dutch exporters seemed so far to have absorbed much of the effect of the rise of the guild.

Forecasting that Dutch interest rates, already among the lowest in Europe, would fall further in line with German rates, the OECD said that the stimulus this would generate was difficult to assess.

A key factor was the "very uncertain" outlook in neighbouring countries "and especially in Germany, which has recently taken a turn for the worse."

Describing the Dutch outlook as "mediocre" the report said that inflation should fall "markedly" from 3.2 per cent last year to 2.3 per cent this year and the two per cent next year.

Inflation was low largely because wages had increased at a slower rate than elsewhere in the EC and "especially in Germany, the main trading partner."

But the unemployment rate would rise from 5.6 per cent in 1992 to 5.9 per cent this year and in 1994.

The report said that "the focus should be on expenditure cuts" to reduce the central government deficit which "merely stabilised"

in 1992 and might be unchanged this year while the overall burden of taxes and contributions was one of the highest in OECD.

The government was committed to reducing the central government deficit by half a point of net national income a year to 3.25 per cent in 1994. But overall, the Netherlands might have problems meeting targets set by the EC Maastricht treaty on economic and political union and "a reduction in public expenditure is necessary."

The OECD also underlined the need for the government to press ahead with a review of welfare benefits.

Seoul takes aim at conglomerates

SEOUL (AFP) — President Kim Young-Sam's administration is planning to curb South Korea's powerful conglomerates, the main engines of the country's spectacular economic growth, as part of his campaign to build a more open, corruption-free "new Korea."

to the nation's top 30 chaebols such as Hyundai, Samsung, and Daewoo are to be further restricted from cross-investment and making bank loan guarantees among themselves.

The move is aimed at discouraging chaebols from trying to expand further into different lines of business.

At present, chaebol subsidiaries are barred from investing more than 40 per cent of their total assets in fellow subsidiaries, and the new government plans to lower this percentage level to 25 to 30 per cent, according to the KDI report.

Subsidiaries are now allowed to guarantee bank loans of other subsidiaries within the same group by up to 200 per cent of their assets, but the new government plans to lower that percentage to 100 per cent by 1996.

Officials say the move is aimed at reducing chaebols' preferential access to bank loans so that more funds can flow into small and medium industries.

At the same time, KDI has strongly recommended the government forbid chaebols from going into the mass media business such as newspapers and radio-television stations, as well as engaging in securities and insurance businesses.

At present, chaebols are banned from owning more than eight per cent of the shares of a commercial bank, with the new gov-

ernment planning to lower that to five per cent — a clear move to prevent chaebols from taking control of banks.

The new regulations will also encourage commercial banks to convert chaebols' bank debts into equity shares in the groups.

The most drastic measure under consideration is to empower the government to order specific chaebols to withdraw their investment in other companies, and even demand the dissolution of specific chaebols believed to have negative effects on the national economy, a KDI official said.

He recalled that the U.S. government ordered the powerful American Telephone and Telegraph Corp. (AT&T) to break up into regional companies to promote fair competition in the 1980s.

South Korea's No. 1 chaebol, Hyundai Group, for example, has a total of 45 subsidiaries ranging from auto-making, cement, construction, electronics, general trading, insurance, to heavy machinery, marine shipping and ship-building.

Hyundai last year alone had a business turnover of \$53.2 billion roughly 20 per cent of South Korea's gross national product.

But, in a sign some business leaders see what the future holds, Hyundai founder Chung Ju-yung, who quit politics after being beaten in the presidential race in December, declared in

March he planned to break up his business empire into independent companies within a year.

He said his sons and grandsons, most of whom have university business degrees, would run the new independent firms.

KDI has projected in a report that South Korea's gross national product (GNP) would post average growth of seven per cent a year in 1993-98, well up on 4.7 per cent in 1992.

KDI forecast per capita GNP would soar some 115 per cent to \$14,506 in the final year from \$6,749 dollars last year.

According to the KDI forecast, exports would grow by an average annual 11.6 per cent from a projected \$8.38 billion dollars in 1993 to \$14.5 billion in 1998. In 1992, exports stood at \$7.51 billion.

Imports are to rise an average annual 9.2 per cent to \$13.12 billion in 1998 from \$8.23 billion in 1993. They totalled \$7.73 billion in 1992.

The report said both construction and plant investment would increase seven per cent a year to 1998.

The five-year targets followed a 100-day emergency plan, announced one month after Mr. Kim took office in February, which included key interest rate cuts, deregulation, cutting bureaucratic red tape and pumping \$1.8 billion into small and medium industries.

India: Child labour is necessary evil

NEW DELHI (R) — Child labour is a necessary evil in India, the country's labour minister said Monday, but he said the government would hold talks with employers aiming eventually to wipe out the practice.

"This is only a beginning to end child labour in this country," Purno Sangma told a one-day conference on the International Labour Organisation-sponsored international programme for the elimination of child labour.

The government says there are around 17 million children under 14 working in India, even though it is illegal. The independent South Asia Coalition on Child Servitude puts the number at 55 million.

Clinton hits the road again

WASHINGTON (AP) — Struggling to regain public support for his economic package and overall job performance, President Bill Clinton is promoting a two-month-old plan to help people and places hurt by deep Pentagon cuts.

Campaign-like appearance in New Mexico and California Monday and Tuesday were arranged as part of an effort by the White House to refocus Mr. Clinton, the media and the public on the economy.

The president has no control over the questions he'll get Tuesday at a town hall meeting in Coronado, California, but he planned to talk about defence conversion after a tour of the Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Job training and his prescription for big-city ills are on tap Tuesday for California audiences.

Mr. Clinton plans to ease the pain of military cuts with a five-year defence conversion budget of \$19.6 billion, a fraction of the \$112 billion he plans to slash from the military budget in the same period.

He wants to use federal money to train defence workers, and communities hurt by plant closings and help more defence-oriented companies develop technologies for civilian use — often called dual-use technology.

Over the next five years, Mr. Clinton hopes to spend \$5.2 billion on displaced workers and military personnel; \$4.7 billion dual-use programme and \$9.6 billion on new technology.

On Tuesday, he promotes his job training plans in Van Nuys, California, where he will tour a machine shop and talk to employees. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown will be with Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Clinton has had a hard time sustaining support for his deficit-reduction package. Over-shadowing his efforts are the troubles in Bosnia, the demise of his jobs bill in the Senate and complaints from Republicans that the White House budget proposal doesn't cut spending enough.

Fuel shortages bite hard in Nigeria

LAGOS (R) — Fuel shortages caused by refinery problems, hoarding, and smuggling abroad, are hitting hard in oil-producing Nigeria.

The shortages and inflated prices demanded by illegal road-side filling stations have played havoc with urban transport and forced thousands of people to walk long distances to work.

Information Secretary Uche Chukwumerie said military President Ibrahim Babangida's National Defence and Security Council would meet soon to discuss ways to ease the problem.

Sri Lankan president vows to continue economic reforms

COLOMBO (AFP) — Dingiri Wijetunga, Sri Lanka's new president, has pledged to continue the economic reforms initiated by his slain predecessor, Ranasinghe Premadasa, Wijetunga's office has said.

Mr. Wijetunga told foreign and local investors that his government has committed to the liberalisation policies initiated by Premadasa, who was killed by a suicide-bomber on May 1.

"My government will further liberalise the trade and payments system and introduce a competitive environment with regard to all imports," an official statement quoted the president as saying.

Reforms will be continued," Mr. Wijetunga also pledged to continue offering generous incentives to woo foreign investors.

He reiterated that his government's stable macro-economic policy would remain unchanged, adding that the rate of inflation had slowed because of good economic management.

Mr. Wijetunga said he was confident that the economy would grow at a higher rate in 1993 than in 1992.

Sri Lanka recorded gross domestic product growth 4.3 per cent in 1992, compared with 4.8 per cent in 1991, according to the central bank.

Mr. Wijetunga said that the privatisation of tea plantation management would further consolidate gains in the agricultural sectors.

China wants to export more aviation equipment

BEIJING (AP) — China plans to export \$550 million worth of aviation equipment this year, with western Europe and the United States targeted for more sales, an official newspaper has reported.

Last year, China exported more than \$520 million in aviation equipment. One-fourth of the total came from aircraft sold mainly to South East Asia and South America. The aircraft sales included four MD-83 planes delivered to McDonnell Douglas and Yun-12 propeller-driven planes, the China Daily's business weekly reported.

Similar shortages last May triggered anti-poverty rioting in Lagos, which with ethnic and sectarian violence elsewhere nearly scuttled the army's planned handover to civilian rule.

"We are being forced to pay more than 20 naira (\$1) for a tin of four litres of petrol. People can wait as long as 36 hours for it," said Tijjani Bande, a political science lecturer from Northern Sokoto state.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MAY 18, 1993

By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Not the best morning for making changes to accept what occurs with a smile that is accompanied with tact. The Moon seizes Saturn about 8:00 p.m., bringing benefits through a willing acceptance of duty.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are at odds with an outsider who is anxious to get you to go along with a plan you do not approve of so take under advisement, make your decision tonight.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your duties seem to be more than you can handle, but if you are to work out well, tonight you see the solution.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now find that entertainment interests have delays or some adverse condition connected with them so wait until a more propitious time, be romantic tonight.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is your day to use more than average care, tact and diplomacy at home with members of your family although conditions improve tonight.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Don't yet expect an answer to that communication that is important to you for if it comes the news would not suit you, tonight visit unusual companion.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You now find a friend you had expected to add you with a project is not available or in tune with your desires, but a comrades attitude improves tonight.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are uncertain how best to go about gaining a vital wish so be on the lookout for better means than you know for making them work out for you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have trouble uncovering some data you feel important to the solution of a current problem so take it in your stride, tonight answers come to you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is the month to hold back from seeking benefits from one in a position to grant you favours but the evening finds a new approach benefit.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) One who has some control over your affairs is not ready to release you the support you need so go to the patient and do your stuff tonight.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are impatient for some new interest and outlets and they are just around the corner so be prepared for them when they do arrive.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make sure whatever bills or collections now facing you are exact or errors could easily occur but tonight you see ways to have more operative skill.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"The washing machine was bouncing all over the room, so I added a Valium to the rinse cycle."

Peanuts

YOU SHOULD WRITE A SELF-HELP BOOK...

YOU KNOW, TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE LONELY AND CAN'T GO ANYPLACE...

How to be Happy Even Though You're Stuck in the Back Yard.

Andy Capp

TOM WOULD ALWAYS RATHER SETTLE FOR LESS THAN OPEN HIS MOUTH AND COMPLAIN...

I RECKON THAT'S TYPICAL OF MOST MEN, ISN'T IT?

NOT MY MAN, DEAR...

HE INSISTS ON HAVING THE BEST OF EVERYTHING EXCEPT MANNERS...

Mutt'n'Jeff

MUTT, LET'S RENT A BIKE AND GO FOR A NICE RIDE!

SURE! I'LL GET A TANDEM!

OH, WE LOOK SWEET UPON THE SEAT OF A BICYCLE BUILT FOR TWO.

I MUST BE GETTIN' OLD! THIS THING IS GETTIN' REAL HARD TO PEDAL.

WHAT I DON'T LIKE ABOUT IT IS THE WAY THESE FEET RESTS KEEP MOVING UP AND DOWN!

I LOOK SWEET ON THE SEAT OF A BICYCLE BUILT FOR ONE!

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FRADT

MYTEP

VINTER

GRUEFE

YOU CAN ALWAYS GROW THIS IN YOUR GARDEN IF YOU WORK HARD ENOUGH.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WHEEL EMBER BIKINI LARYNX

Answer: What the traveling correspondent's wife didn't like—HIS "BYE LINE"

THE Daily Crossword by Neeva Archer

ACROSS

1 Lift a brow

5 Show biz gp.

10 Gander

14 Versus de

15 Old Russ. patriarch

16 Complaint

17 Franciscan

18 "Home"

19 Eve's son

20 "In The Sun" (old song)

22 Added weight

24 French miss

25 Years and years

28 "If You — Me Like" (old song)

29 Eliot Ness actor

34 Of Norse tales

36 Shore bird

37 Gummy stuff

38 Old actor, Mischka

39 "I never met — didn't like" (Rogers)

41 Walden's pride

42 Segments; abbr.

43 Outback trip

44 City in lit.

46 Hurts, in a way

49 Not true

50 Reason of

51 "I could —"

53 —poly

56 Up front

60 Seed cover

61 Actress Burke

63 Awareness of

64 Weed

65 Plant used in wreaths

66 Egyptian goddess

67 Winklike

68 Modern glue

69 Medicine measure

DOWN

1 God of love

2 Yawl

3 Dummy

4 Conveyance for trigger?

5 "For want of"

6 Tobacco, a g.

7 Fight results

8 Howard or Ely

9 Narcissus' favorite?

10 Bigot

11 Abbe of Israel

12 "I cannot tell"

13 Hang fire

21 Jail

23 Handle

25 Black, to poets

26 Bounds

27 Elicit

28 For example

30 Horseshu city

31 Greek market

32 Funnel-shaped

33 Brown bear?

35 Bullet case

40 Only

41 Like a big white bear?

43 London gallery

45 Puzza del

47 Trader

48 Levy on ball-points?

52 Muscle disorder

53 Pro —

54 Vocal

55 Italian bread

56 Different prof.

57 — many words

58 Skinner

59 Flower

62 Poet's initials

Bosnian Serbs say U.N. plan dead, Serb state is a reality

PALE, Bosnia (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb leaders have pronounced a U.N. peace plan for Bosnia "dead" and say an independent Serb state is now a reality.

The defiant declaration came as Bosnian Serbs finished voting Sunday evening in a referendum expected to reject the peace plan drawn up by mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen and to back an independent Serb state in Bosnia.

Political chieftain Radovan Karadzic said: "The Vance-Owen plan cannot be implemented. It couldn't be even if the answer was 'yes,' as it is far away from reality."

"We are going our own way," His sentiments were echoed by the head of the Bosnian Serb army, General Ratko Mladic, who said the Serb state in Bosnia was now a reality and the world could do nothing about it.

"It's like some newborn baby. Maybe you didn't want to have it with a certain lady — but there it is."

The weekend referendum has been dismissed by the international community as an illegitimate sham.

The results are expected Wednesday, but Bosnian Serb radio reported late Sunday that 99.3 per cent of voters in the eastern municipality of Vlasenica had voted against the peace plan.

Only 20 people had voted in favour.

On the question of an independent state, 99.1 per cent voted in favour in the district, with only 25 people against. Turnout was reported as 90.2 per cent, the radio said.

Bosnian Serb refugees in Serbia and its ally Montenegro were told polling stations would stay open for them Monday.

Dr. Karadzic, saying work should start now on a new peace settlement, predicted more war unless the world faced the reality that Serbs and Muslims could not live together.

Under the Vance-Owen plan, the Serbs would have to give up a third of the territory they have conquered in 13 months of civil war against Muslims and Croats.

Gen. Mladic warned the West not to intervene with air strikes to force the plan on the Serbs and threatened revenge if they did.

"If they bomb me, I'll bomb London," Gen. Mladic said.

On the possibility of U.N. military intervention on the ground, he said: "They can get in but they would not know how to get out... whoever comes here would leave their bones here."

Radical Serbian nationalist Vojislav Seselj, visiting Serb-held Bosnia, said thousands of Serbian and Russian volunteers would attack Muslim-held Sarajevo if the West launched air strikes and no foreign troops would be safe.

The apparent rejection of the Vance-Owen peace plan by Bosnian Serb voters in a referendum this weekend is "more than disputable," Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozirev said Monday.

"We cannot reconcile ourselves to the results of a referendum held among Bosnian Serbs on the issue of a territorial settlement in former Yugoslavia," ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Mr. Kozirev as saying.

Mr. Kozirev was due later Monday to begin a weeklong trip abroad that will include talks with top officials in Serbia and Croatia.

Serbs and Croat military commanders, meeting under U.N. auspices at Sarajevo Airport, signed a fresh ceasefire agreement to take effect Tuesday.

Dozens of previous ceasefires have been ignored or violated almost immediately.

Bosnia's Croat, Muslim and Serb forces skirmished across the former Yugoslav republic Monday and U.N. peacekeepers said they were worried about tension in the centre of the country.

In the southwestern city of Mostar there was a Monday morning lull after Croats and Muslims fought artillery duels and gun battles Sunday, Croatian radio reported.

It said eight Croat soldiers were killed and 32 wounded in Sunday's clashes. No figures were available for the Muslims but Sarajevo Radio earlier reported heavy casualties.

The United Nations said it was worried about tension between Croats and Muslims, former allies in the 13-month war, in central Bosnia, especially in Vitez where British U.N. peacekeepers are based.

"The threat of an outbreak of hostilities remains high," U.N. spokesman Commander Barry Frewer told journalists in Sarajevo.

In the northern area of Brcko, Bosnian Serb forces were trying to take Muslim-held villages in a classic pincer movement after three days of intense clashes, he said.

The Serbs — who say they were first attacked by Muslims — appeared to be trying to extend their hold over the strategic area of Brcko, which controls a corridor linking Serb-held land in Bosnia.

Sarajevo Radio accused the Serbs of pounding the northern Muslim-held area of Maglaj with artillery all day Sunday and launching an infantry attack on the area.

Maj. Frewer reported intensive bursts of machinegun and small arms fire across the besieged capital Sarajevo Sunday but little artillery fire.

He also reported "the first significant ceasefire violation around the eastern Muslim enclave of Zepa, declared a 'safe area' by the United Nations last week and in theory protected by U.N. forces."

Atomic submarine: A new atomic-powered submarine flying the Russian naval flag undergoes final preparations before taking to sea at the Severodvinsk naval construction centre in northern Russia (AFP photo).

Troops guard Phnom Penh waterfront

PHNOM PENH (R) — Heavily armed troops took up positions along the Phnom Penh waterfront Monday to guard against Khmer Rouge attack but the U.N. military commander said the guerrillas would not stop next week's Cambodian elections.

"I believe they're (Khmer Rouge) not capable of stopping it provided everybody maintains their commitment," Australian Lieutenant-General John Sanderson told Reuters in an interview.

Thai army sources said at least three people were killed and seven injured when 50 suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas firing mortar bombs stormed a Phnom Penh government position in northwestern Cambodia Monday.

In the capital, soldiers with machineguns and rocket launchers spread out along the Mekong River shore and armoured cars were parked at key intersections.

"The Khmer Rouge have threatened that they will at all costs launch an attack... we want to prevent a Khmer Rouge attack aimed at sabotaging the polls," Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Cambodian state radio Sunday.

The jittery capital was also bombed with leaflets Monday by the government.

They distributed thousands of election leaflets aimed at discrediting the opposition royalist party. "A vote for FUNCINPEC is a vote for the Khmer Rouge," the leaflets warned.

"We cannot afford to let Phnom Penh fall under Khmer Rouge control due to our negligence," he said in a broadcast monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

A Western diplomat in Phnom Penh said that while there was a genuine danger of Khmer Rouge attack, it was in the interests of Mr. Hun Sen's State Of Cambodia (SOC) government to play up the Khmer Rouge threat.

The Khmer Rouge has not attacked Phnom Penh in any force since 1975, when its troops overran the capital to start a reign of terror that killed more than one million people in Cambodia.

It is the only one of the four factions which signed a 1991 peace accord that refuses to participate in U.N.-organised elections scheduled for May 23-28.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Friday there were strong indications the Khmer Rouge would try to use violence to disrupt the elections.

But in a report he published this week, he recommended that the Security Council reaffirm the voting for a Constituent Assembly should proceed.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas attempted to blow up a bridge on the main road linking northwest Cambodia with Thailand early Monday, killing three and injuring 18 before they were driven off, a government army officer said.

About 50 heavily armed Khmer Rouge attacked a Phnom Penh army post near the bridge on National Route 5, six kilometres west of the northwestern town of Sisophon, shortly after midnight. The half-hour gunbattle left two government soldiers and a civilian dead, and 11 soldiers and seven civilians injured, the officer said. Khmer Rouge casualties were not known.

BANGKOK (R) — Police set an elaborate ambush to arrest more than 30 motorcycle street racers over the weekend, newspapers reported Monday. Police blocked off one end of a new flyover in central Bangkok and then chased the racers up the other end, the Bangkok Post reported. Police have announced a crackdown on the racers, who stage their high-speed contests on streets late at night, but arresting them has been difficult since they usually flee in all directions when officers appear. Some of the motorcycle racers who escaped the ambush later taunted police by noisily driving around a nearby police station.

On-air sexiness leaves broadcasters speechless

DARWIN, Australia (R) — Trying too hard to sound husky and sexy on radio can seriously damage your vocal chords, an Australian speech pathologist said. Dr. Linda Worrall of Queensland University said new research showed that broadcasters can damage their voices by trying too hard to sound seductive. A study of 10 radio announcers found high rates of "vocal abuse" symptoms, such as a constant clearing of the throat, were partly attributable to attempts to produce an unnaturally low, sexy-sounding voice too often.

Woman bathes while home burns down

MELBOURNE (R) — An Australian woman was enjoying a nice, warm bath when a burst fireman burst in and told her the house was burning down. "He led her out of the smoke-filled unit to safety," a Melbourne Fire Brigade spokesman said. The unnamed 34-year-old woman had been in her bath for about 30 minutes on Sunday night, blissfully unaware of the blaze, when a neighbour saw flames coming from her kitchen and raised the alarm. Nearly 20 firefighters could not save the home from extensive damage.

Alleged adulterers forced to do it in public

JAKARTA (R) — Two Indonesian villagers were forced to have sex in public after they were accused of having an illicit affair, the newspaper Republika reported. It quoted a father of four, identified only as W.S. and whose wife is working abroad, as saying he and a woman friend, a widow, were just having chat at a neighbour's house when villagers burst in. They were accused of committing adultery and made to walk to the village chief's house. There a security official beat them, made them undress and then forced them to have sex — twice — in public. The security official has since disappeared and police are searching for him.

German prostitutes demand health insurance

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Major faces uphill battle on Maastricht if Danes say 'yes'

LONDON (AFP) — If Danes say "yes" to Maastricht Tuesday, leaving Britain the only country where ratification is in doubt, British Prime Minister John Major can expect an epic parliamentary battle to win support for the treaty against a determined caucus of Tory Euro-rebels.

The dedication with which some senior Conservatives have joined in the "no" campaign in Denmark clearly shows that whatever the outcome there, for them, the fight against the treaty on closer European unity will go on.

The ratification process launched in the House of Commons a year ago — with the unrealistic goal of concluding by December — has so divided Tory ranks that Mr. Major agreed to await the verdict of the second Danish vote on the text.

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But a "yes" victory would mean the House of Commons would begin a third reading of the ratification bill Thursday.

Once that hurdle is over, the bill will go to the House of Lords, where former prime minister Lady Margaret Thatcher and her anti-Maastricht supporters are reportedly planning to propose hundreds of amendments.

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In the meantime, opponents of the treaty, led more and more openly by Lady Thatcher, have seen their ranks grow as realisation of their power sinks in.

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Reynolds, Bubka win in season opener

SAO PAULO (AP) — Butch Reynolds and Sergei Bubka won their events Sunday at the opening meet of the 1993 Grand Prix track and field season, although one had the crowd cheering and the other left it disappointed.

Reynolds, who returned earlier this year from a 2 1/2-year drug suspension he still maintains was wrong, won the 400 metres in 44.68 seconds, while Bubka, the world record-holder in the pole vault, woo at 5.80 metres (19 feet-0 1/2 inch), well below his record of 6.13 (20-1 1/4) set last year.

More than 150 athletes participated in the meet under cloudy skies with temperatures in the high 50s Fahrenheit (13-16 Celsius).

Reynolds, a world record-holder who received top billing in the Mobil-Banana meet along with Bubka, was cheered loudly when he won his race.

Bubka, on the other hand, wasn't warmly received when he



Gwyn Torrence of the U.S. (centre) screams in pain as she pulls a muscle during the women's 100-metre

race at the Sao Paulo International Track and Field Meet. At right is Evelyn Ashford of the U.S. Mary Onyiah (left) of Nigeria won the race (AFP photo)

didn't come near his world-record height.

"Considering how cold and windy it was and the fact that it was my first international event of the season, I am very satisfied with my performance," said the Ukrainian who has set the world record indoors and outdoors 34 times.

Reynolds also complained ab-

out the wind and cold and said he probably could have done better.

Gwyn Torrence was about 20 metres from winning the women's 100 when she suddenly started limping and fell to the ground with a pulled muscle in her right leg.

Doctors who attended her said she would be able to resume running in two weeks. The race

was won by Mary Onyiah of Nigeria in 11.46.

Onyiah said her victory did not surprise her because "I expected to win all along. Even if Torrence had not hurt herself, I would have won."

The next Grand Prix meet is May 22 in New York. London serves as host to the season's final meet Sept. 10.

Spurs upset Suns

SAN ANTONIO (R) — From East to West, the big men ruled in the National Basketball Association playoffs as David Robinson, Hakeem Olajuwon and Patrick Ewing took turns leading their teams to victory Sunday.

Robinson scored 36 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to lead the Spurs to a 117-103 win over the Phoenix Suns to even their best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal series at 2-2.

In Houston, Olajuwon just missed a triple-double with 24 points, 12 rebounds and eight blocked shots as the Rockets beat the Seattle SuperSonics 103-92 to sweep their two home games this weekend and knot their Western series at 2-2.

In Charlotte, Ewing helped New York buck the home-court trend by scoring 28 points as the visiting Knicks nipped the Hornets 94-92 to claim a 3-1 lead with the series shifting back to Madison Square Garden.

Despite all the outstanding pivot performances, Spurs coach John Lucas left no doubt about who his favourite man in the middle is.

"David Robinson is the best centre in basketball," Lucas gushed after San Antonio's spirited victory.

Kevin Johnson scored 26 points and Charles Barkley added 18 points for the Suns.

Phoenix, who posted the NBA's best record in the regular season, struggled by the Los Angeles Lakers after dropping the first two and now find themselves in another tough series.

The presence of Olajuwon under the basket means everything to the Rockets and the NBA's defensive player of the year helps make his teammates better.

World Boxing Championships

Cubans insist they have no secrets

TAMPERE, Finland (R) — According to mighty Felix Savon, a lot of hard work and a little bit of dancing are the only secrets behind Cuba's stranglehold on Amateur Boxing.

"We have no secrets, we just train hard," said heavyweight Savon after helping the Cubans to a record eight golds at the World Championships.

"I train three hours in the morning, three hours in the afternoon and the rest of the time, I like to go to the beach and to go dancing," added Savon, who became the first boxer to be crowned four times.

International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) General Secretary Karl-Heinz Wehr offered a more scientific explanation of Cuba's superiority.

"They are naturally talented and they adapted very quickly to the new computerised scoring system," he said. "They also have the best coaches and the best training methods."

Coach Aldeides Sagarra said his boxers were perfect all-round athletes.

"Swimming and athletics are

part of their training," he said. "They also follow special diets, one during training and a different one during competitions."

According to Sagarra, the atmosphere in the team is equally important. "They are all friends and they all support each other," he said. "They fight hard in the ring but outside the ropes, life goes back to normal and they don't feel any pressure. When Marcelo lost his first round match, he didn't make a fuss and nobody criticised him."

While the Cubans look as good as ever, some of their traditional

rivals are going through hard times. Germany, with a squad made up mostly of former East Germans, and Russia failed to win a single gold in Tampere.

"The countries from the Eastern Bloc have lost their formidable training facilities and they need time to recover from all the changes they've been through," said Wehr.

The United States, once regarded as a strong force in Amateur Boxing, were equally unimpressive and had to be content with two bronze medals and one silver.

Final medals table of the World Amateur Boxing Championships:

	G	S	B
Cuba	8	3	0
Bulgaria	2	2	2
Romania	1	0	2
Armenia	1	0	1
U.S.	0	1	2
Georgia	0	1	1
Turkey	0	1	1
Finland	0	1	0
Lithuania	0	1	0
Nigeria	0	1	0



David Brabham drives one of Jaguar's 200-mph XJ 220 cars during a test session on the Le Mans course. Jaguar is entering three cars in this year's 24-hour race (AFP photo)

Graf spoils Sabatini's birthday; Courier overwhelms Ivanisevic

BERLIN (Agencies) — Steffi Graf spoiled Gabriela Sabatini's 23rd birthday by beating the Argentine 7-6, 2-6, 6-4 to capture a record seventh German Open title Sunday.

Sabatini seemed to wilt in the third set as the German broke her serve twice and converted her first match point to win in two hours, 18 minutes.

"Maybe it wasn't the right birthday gift," Graf said of her victory.

Graf, who was the top seed and the defending champion in the \$750,000 clay-court tournament, raised her career record against Sabatini to 25-11.

The German went 0-5 against Sabatini during a period between 1990 and 1991, but only in the second set did Sabatini dominate with a serve-and-volley style that keyed those her five straight victories.

Using her favourite weapon, Graf let her powerful forehand dictate the match.

The German broke Sabatini's serve to lead 3-2 in the third set, but the second-seeded Argentine, ranked fifth by the Women's Tennis Association, fought back to earn a break opportunity in the following game.

Graf then saved the game by driving a forehand into the corner, setting up an overhead volley winner.

"I never thought I was in control in the third set," Sabatini said. "In the big moments, I should have risked more."

Graf has won the tournament every year since 1986, with the exception of 1990 when Monica Seles walked away with the crown. But this year she was forced to battle from behind in several matches.

"In three matches, I had my back to the wall," Graf said. "I don't have much confidence in my game and I get upset too easily after some errors. This was my hardest title."

Sabatini, the 1990 U.S. Open champion, also lost in last week's final at the Italian Open to Conchita Martinez in straight sets. She now has a victory drought



Steffi Graf (left) serves a piece of cake to Gabriela Sabatini, who celebrated her 23rd birthday, following their final match at the German Open (AFP photo)

stretching back to May of last year.

Graf earned \$150,000 for her victory, while Sabatini had to settle for \$60,000 and a large birthday cake.

Courier back in dominant form: Jim Courier is back where he was last year, dominant.

Courier reestablished himself as the world's top clay-court player and favourite for the French Open as he overwhelmed Goran Ivanisevic 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 Sunday to win the Italian Open, Courier, the No. 2 seed, became the first player to win consecutive Rome titles since Jaroslav Drobny in 1950-51. He did it in the same

impressive way as last year, when he went on to win his second straight French Open title.

"This has been a perfect preparation going into Paris," Courier said. "It's no guarantee I'm going to do great at the French. But if I had to pick a way to get ready, this would be it."

After beating clay-court experts Sergi Bruguera and Michael Chang in the quarterfinals and semifinals, Courier made it look easy Sunday against the big-serving sixth-seeded Ivanisevic. The match was so one-sided it lasted just two hours.

"I didn't expect it to be this easy," Courier said. "It was scary

how fast it went.

Ivanisevic said, "I was not there today. I don't know who was out there, but it wasn't me."

Courier neutralised Ivanisevic's serve with his sharp returns, breaking the Croatian six times during the match. Courier never lost his serve, saving four break points.

Ivanisevic, who had piled up 42 aces in the previous rounds, managed only six Sunday — and they were cancelled out by five double faults. Courier had four aces of his own and won 83 per cent of the points on his first serve, compared to just 57 per cent for Ivanisevic.

Ivanisevic, who committed 43 unforced errors, was despondent about his play.

"I was staying 10 metres back and playing like (Gabriela) Sabatini," he said. "This isn't women's tennis. He didn't have to play today. He didn't do anything extra. I was too far back. I was late, I missed my chances, I served bad. It was terrible."

Ivanisevic displayed his temper several times, drawing a warning from chair umpire Jorge Dias for breaking his racket in anger after missing an overhead. He also hurled his racket across the court after losing his serve and kicked a ball into the stands.

Although Courier remains No. 2 in the world rankings behind Pete Sampras, Ivanisevic said Courier is the man to beat.

"He is dominating at the moment," he said. "He is mentally stronger than anyone else."

Martin won clay championship: In Coral Springs, Florida Todd Martin completed an irretrievable run through the field with a straight-set 6-3, 6-4 win over David Wheaton Sunday to win the America's Red Clay Championship for his first title.

Martin, 22, did not drop a set in five matches and blasted 33 aces by opponents, including 10 in the final.

"I think the nicest thing is to go through the week and play good tennis and not let down," said the 38th-ranked Martin, who earned \$28,800.

Milan and Marseille stay on course

PARIS (AFP) — European Champions Cup finalists AC Milan of Italy and France's Olympique Marseille both stayed on course for league title honours this weekend.

AC Milan, who met Marseille May 26 in Munich, were the less impressive, held to a goalless draw against AS Roma, but they remain top favourites, four points clear at the top of Serie A with three games to go.

Their French counterparts, meanwhile, chasing their fifth league crown in a row, crushed Lille 4-1 and are also four points ahead of the chasing pack.

Uruguay's Ruben Sosa kept Internazionale's mathematical chances of the title alive with a 59th minute equaliser against home side Genoa, who had opened the scoring in the first half through Christian Panucci.

The battle between third and

fourth-placed Juventus and Parma — the likely UEFA Cup winners versus the recently-crowned Cup Winners' Cup victors — was settled by midfielder Marco Osio's second-half double.

That wiped out Juventus' 39th minute opener through Roberto Baggio.

The most impressive performance of the day came from Lazio, who cracked five goals past visitors Ancona — even without England superstar Paul Gascoigne, still recovering from a cheekbone injury.

In Holland, PSV Eindhoven got their title charge back on track with an impressive 5-1 away demolition of Sparta Rotterdam, Brazilian striker Romario scoring in the 13th and 43 minutes.

Belgium's league ended Sunday with already-crowned champions Anderlecht losing 2-1 away to Charleroi.

In the German Bundesliga, Bayern's successful weekend work-out inched them closer to their title, while Barcelona in Spain achieved the opposite by letting Real Madrid back into the race.

Barcelona went down in a shock 1-0 away defeat to Oviedo courtesy of Munoz Carlos' strike in the 38th minute, and although arch rivals Real could only draw at

Celta Vigo, that result has enough for them to join Johan Cruyff's side at the top on 30 points.

Bayern Munich are still only two points ahead of Werder Bremen but the Bavarians, after a below-par performance against Nuremberg last week, found their best form to trounce Bayer Leverkusen 4-1.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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THE GREAT BRIDGE CHALLENGE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 65
♥ A Q 10 8 2
♦ A J 7 3 2
♣ Q J 7 3 2

WEST
♠ K 10 8 3 2
♥ 9 6 3
♦ K Q 9 5
♣ A

EAST
♠ Void
♥ K J 7 5 4
♦ 10 4 3 2
♣ 9 8 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 9 7 4
♥ A Q J
♦ J 8 7 6
♣ K 10 6

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

It was obvious that *placost* had not permeated the bridge club. Trump Coup Tommy and Votmal Tinkinov, the Russian emigre, had been at each other's throats for months. Each seized every opportunity to voice to fellow members their opinion of the other's play, which was markedly less than complimentary.

In a Solomonian riddle, the Card Committee had decreed that each

should choose a partner and play a six-rubber bridge match, with crowing rights going to the winner. Throughout most of the match there was little to choose between the two sides. The Russian kept going down because he never took a moment out to plan a campaign and Tommy matched that ineptitude by his inability to make any contract where trumps broke normally. Tommy edged ahead to stay when this hand was dealt.

Tommy's bidding was reasonable. Where Votmal blundered badly was in doubling, alerting Tommy to the evil trump break, although the consensus was that his action was eminently correct.

Tommy won the diamond lead in dummy, cashed the ace of hearts for a diamond discard, then ruffed a heart in hand. Two diamond ruffs were sandwiched around another heart ruff, giving Tommy six tricks. He exited with a club, taken by West's ace. Whether West returned a trump or his diamond, Tommy would score his remaining trumps by simply exiting with a club each time he gained the lead, forcing West to ruff. In all, Tommy collected all six trumps in hand, two ruffs in dummy and the red-suit aces. Another TCT triumph!

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Algeria outlaws Islamic dress

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Authorities have forbid workers in government jobs or state-run companies to wear Islamic dress in the workplace, newspapers reported Monday, citing an official order.

The decree is the latest measure to counter the wave of violence blamed on Muslim extremists that has left more than 800 people dead in Algeria over the past 15 months.

A government prosecutor and the small-town mayor were killed in separate hit-and-run attacks Sunday, and eight people were injured when gunmen sprayed a cop's stop with machinegun fire, officials said.

The new measure stipulates the wearing of any clothes, effects, attributes or accoutrements of a nature to show in an ostensible way membership in an ideological, political or religious current.

The measure, qualified as "exceptional," targets the long robes and headscarves that have become synonymous with the Islamic Front (FIS), the fundamentalist movement that was outlawed in March 1992.

Or the movement, which had been poised to win parliamentary elections, has since thrown its support to Islamic extremists who have mounted an armed battle against military-backed leaders.

Beards and robes, which gained wide popularity in the two years preceding the front's banning, have been disappearing from the streets as fears of arrest mount among fundamentalists.

The decree also forbids "partisan activity" in the workplace, including political meetings and collections for funds.

Algeria has been under a state of emergency since February 1992 and large parts of the country under curfew since December.

Government officials said Monday that a truce has been reached with lawyers boycotting the country's three anti-terrorism courts, instituted in September, for quick action against suspected terrorists. No details were available on the reported agreement.

The lawyers, on a boycott since last Wednesday, had opposed enfeebled powers for the courts' presidents, allowing them to ex-



Two women wait to cross the road in Algiers Monday, one wearing a traditional Islamic dress and the other a Western dress. The government Monday banned civil servants from wearing clothing which ostensibly promotes religious, ideological or political affiliation (AFP photo)

pel lawyers from the court or suspend them from practice if they saw fit.

The Algiers special court is currently trying suspects in the August 1992 bombing of the capital's airport which killed nine people. An aide to jailed FIS leader Abbasi Madani is a chief suspect.

Two Islamic fundamentalists, a prosecutor and a mayor were killed Sunday.

Two armed fundamentalists were killed Sunday afternoon in the Islamic enclave of Kouba in the southern Algiers suburbs, Algerian radio said.

Security forces recovered two automatic pistols from the corpses, the radio added, without giving details of the men's identities or how they died.

Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen shot dead Mohammed Said, prosecutor-general of Tlemcen, near the Algerian-Moroccan border, the radio said.

Mr. Said, 42, who escaped an assassination attempt several months ago, was hit by three bullets as he was taking his children to school, later dying of his wounds in hospital, the radio added.

Assassination bid

The managing director of an independent Algerian newspaper, Omar Belhouche, escaped death Monday when his car was fired on, senior staff at his El Watan daily said.

The assassination did come when Mr. Belhouche drove his children to school and several shots were fired at the car, the source said.

Witnesses said three people fired at the car, but Mr. Belhouche made a speedy getaway after noticing a suspicious-looking man close to the school, the source said.

It was the first time a journalist has been targeted in the guerrilla war against the authorities that began in January 1992.

Several journalists have received death threats purportedly from armed fundamentalist groups, who accuse them of opposing the installation of an Islamic state in Algeria and bias in their editorial outlook.

Informed sources said that journalists are on hit lists, together with members of the security forces, magistrates, some political party chiefs and civil servants.

Prince Hassan calls for increased help for refugees and enhanced NGO contribution

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has called for greater efforts towards helping refugees and for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to contribute more to the efforts.

The refugees of the Muslim World account for nearly 80 per cent of the total number of world refugees, the Crown Prince said.

The Prince was addressing a fund-raising dinner organised by Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP).

The banquet was part of a series of MAP activities, which included a sponsored march last Friday.

Following are excerpts from the Prince's address, delivered at the dinner held at the Forte Grand Hotel Sunday evening:

"A year has passed since we last met — not a very pleasant year at all; a year in fact of cruel realities on the ground, of turning on the television and watching one crisis after another.

"We are told that there is the threat of Islamic extremism in the world and I am saddened by the fact that 80 per cent of the world refugees are Muslims.

"We are told effectively that the desire for peace in this region is at the low ebb.

"I felt that there was still some optimism left in the commitment to peace and what is more important than the commitment to peace by governments — the

popular commitment to peace by people at the grass roots.

"Apart from that the news from Washington, as you know, is not uplifting.

"The Jordanian-Palestinian commitment to cooperation at all levels is more needed today than it was ever needed in the past. I am very sorry that it is I who am saying this because I do not know what impressions some of you may have of my political views.

"As we look at enhancing the role of the have-nots in the peace process, we are not, in a Jordanian-Palestinian context, producers of oil or bound to the U.S. by a strategic relationship.

We, and possibly the Lebanese if we care to look little further, are in something of the same predicament.

"We are talking about peace for peoples... for junior partners maybe — and I'd like to emphasise the extremely important nature of the human component of peace.

"All of us know that human rights basically mean civil rights and political rights, and all of us know that every effort is being made within the context of those disheartening peace talks to have human rights recognised in terms of the victims and understanding their suffering and their anguish.

But I want to add that (we have to) articulate social rights, economic rights, cultural rights, the



Prince Hassan of Jordan, who is visiting Amman, called for increased help for refugees and enhanced NGO contribution.

right to education, to health, to development, in every possible form and let me refer to the important meeting in Vienna on human rights.

"The human factor in the search of peace will remain neglected unless and until the world understands not only the violence but also the root causes of what is happening in the territories.

"I really wonder whether we are giving sufficient weight and time to non-governmental approaches that should... complement and give some teeth to the rather toothless governmental approach to peacemaking.

"Unless NGOs have the time and the tolerance and the patience to sit down together and place the all important issues of

an international appeal for the depressed conditions in the territories, for the destitute, for the dispossessed, I think that the arbitrary nature of the discussion of human rights here and the discussions of certain aspects of human rights violations there — this is the basic point — that there is no comprehensive picture being portrayed.

"The thought I just like to leave with you is this thought that we do effectively not let another year pass. If we live and were healthy and sane in the next year without having committed ourselves to some form of an effective and in-depth collaborative effort with our international interlocutors with Jordanian and Palestinian contribution to a statement that comes out of the region."

"May I refer to the danger facing us here east of the river as well. We have our problems in trying to keep on the agenda the question of movement of peoples; 350,000 came back from the Gulf.

"All of our volunteer efforts, all of our concerns as individuals are important and relevant but can only make an impact if and when we can reach out to organisations concerned with the human dimension of the Palestinian question, the human dimension of the have-nots in the peace process and put them into some kind of clarity and objectivity."

Egypt curbs foreign phone links in anti-extremism war

CAIRO (Agencies) — On President Hosni Mubarak's orders, Egypt is restricting telephone and telefax communications with five Muslim countries that the president accuses of harbouring "terrorists."

Operators intercept direct-dialled calls to Sudan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq under the procedures Mr. Mubarak announced Sunday. The measure is the government's latest weapon in a so far unsuccessful battle against a violent campaign by Muslim extremists against Mr. Mubarak's largely secular administration.

In the latest confrontation between the radicals and security forces, police Monday exchanged fire with four extremists wounding one of them in the town of Mansafut, 300 kilometres south of Cairo.

A police official, who requested anonymity, said the

police surrounded a house where they were tipped the militants were hiding. He said the extremists shot at the officers when they tried to enter the house. After the exchange, police arrested the group and confiscated three machineguns.

In Cairo, an operator said the telephone and fax restrictions had been in effect for several days. She said she did not think calls were being monitored or censored.

Later, another operator blamed technical problems for the inability to dial directly to the five countries. Refusing to put a call through to her supervisor, the operator said: "He will tell you the same thing: 'It's a technical problem.'"

But Mr. Mubarak revealed the restrictions in comments to newspaper editors Sunday on the way back from a week-long Gulf tour.

He said they were imposed to help "encircle terrorists who receive their orders from abroad."

Investigations proved, he said, "that people hired to carry out terrorist attacks against the Egyptian people and destroy Egypt's economy use these telephone and fax communications from these countries."

His comments were published in the government-owned Al Akhbar newspaper.

"The president indicated that this measure had been taken because investigations had proved telephone and fax calls had been made from these countries to hired elements to organise terrorist acts," the newspaper said.

Muslim militants fighting to overthrow Mr. Mubarak and turn Egypt into a purist Islamic state have attacked police, Christians and tourists over the last year. They nearly assassinated Information Minister Safwat Sherif last month.

Egypt accused Sudan and Iran of helping the militants, several of whose leaders have taken refuge in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Iraq has been regarded as a hostile state since the Gulf crisis of 1990-91.

News organisations in Cairo have received at least one faxed statement from the main militant group, Al Gama'a Al Islamiya (Islamic Group), which was sent from a public post office in Peshawar, on Pakistan's border with Afghanistan.

In his published comments Monday, Mr. Mubarak also said Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will bar fund-raising by private groups which could channel the money to fundamentalists.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE had made all fund-raising subject to prior government approval in a bid to determine where the money was going, he was quoted as saying.

Hardliners opt to keep out Sof Iran election campaign

TEHRAN (AFP) — A leader of the hardline Islamic camp said Monday it would stay out of the campaign for Iran's presidential election in which Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is tipped to romp home to a second term in office.

The hardliners will not take part in protest at the "poisoned political climate... and absence of freedom," said Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, a former interior minister.

He charged in an interview with Salam newspaper that the government had "opted for the method of elimination, as in the last legislative election" and complained of a lack of press freedom.

The radicals who dominated the Iranian parliament were heavily defeated in last year's election. Many of them have since been detained or silenced and the authorities suspended several of their publications.

The radical camp "will not do anything in particular for the election," said Mr. Mohtashemi, but he fell short of declaring a boycott. Their silence does not ing however, mean the radicals have vanished from the political scene, he stressed.

Mr. Rafsanjani leads a field of four candidates into the June 11 election, without any serious challenger. According to analysts, the turn-out will be the main test of the polls.

Apart from the incumbent, the other candidates are former Labour Minister Ahmad Tavakoli, a former MP, Rajab Ali Taheri, and the chancellor of the Islamic Open University, Abdullah Jashi.

Analysts said Mr. Tavakoli, an Islamic conservative, was the main challenger but posed no threat to Mr. Rafsanjani, who has the support of Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

All three challengers are political light-weights, they said, predicting an easy second four-year term for Mr. Rafsanjani.

Mr. Tavakoli, who served in the cabinet between 1981 and 1983, is an advocate of a liberal economy. As a conservative, he also seeks greater Islamisation of society in Iran, but is an adversary of Islamic radicals.

The former minister is also a founder of the Ressalat newspaper, close to the merchant class of the Tehran bazaar.

On Sunday, Mr. Tavakoli launched his campaign by calling for sharper measures to counter what he called "western cultural invasion" and for less state intervention in the economy.

Expellees mark 5 months in exile

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinian expellees marked five months in banishment in southeast Lebanon Monday with a day-long fast and a symbolic march within the boundaries of their tent camp.

Before the protest stroll began at noon (0900 GMT), the 396 expellees staged a two-hour sit-in inside their green tents perched between Israeli lines and the forwardmost Lebanese military checkpoint at Marj Al Zohour.

The men then climbed to a nearby hill only 300 metres north of the encampment where they ended the march by dispatching a complaint to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

"We call on you Mr. Secretary-General to implement Resolution 799 in compliance with international laws so the resolution wouldn't become forgotten like previous U.N. decisions," said the complaint.

Resolution 799 calls on Israel to take the men back immediately. They were expelled Dec. 17. During the hour-long march, an artillery shell fired from Israel's self-styled "security zone" exploded harmlessly two kilometres south of the camp, causing no interruption in the expellees' protest.

The men brandished a banner reading "We the deportees must go back to Palestine."

Abdul Aziz Rantisi, a Gaza physician who speaks for the deportees, said the expellees agreed to observe a dawn-to-dusk fast to protest the expulsion.

The expulsions caused a four-month suspension of the Middle East peace process. The talks resumed in Washington last month but a ninth round failed to produce a breakthrough.

Dr. Rantisi said the United States should stop backing Israel if it is to play its promised role of "full partner" in the Arab-Israeli talks.

He repeated earlier calls by the expellees for Palestinian negotiators to quit the talks and stressed that the only way the Palestinian rights would be achieved was through escalating the five-and-a-half-year-old intifada in the Israeli-occupied territories.

NEWS IN BRIEF

India, Israel sign economic accord

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres held a meeting round of talks with Indian leaders and signed an economic cooperation accord here Monday on the first day of his trip to India. Mr. Peres, whose visit marks the highest level contact between Israel and India since the establishment of full diplomatic ties in January 1992, shuttled from one ministry to another under tight security throughout the day. He briefed Indian officials on the progress of the Middle East peace talks and called for a stronger business relationship between the two countries during an address to a group of top Indian corporate executives (Protests greet Peres, page 2)

Turkish forces kill 13 Kurdish rebels

DIYARBAKIR (AP) — Security forces killed 13 Kurdish guerrillas in a clash in this southeastern province, the regional governor's office announced Monday. The clash occurred Sunday near the town of Kulp when the insurgents opened fire on troops on patrol, the announcement said. There have been other minor clashes since a unilateral ceasefire was declared by Kurdish rebel leaders on March 20. Turkish officials welcomed the truce but ruled out talks with the rebels who have waged a guerrilla war for self-rule since 1984. More than 6,000 people have died in the fighting mainly in southeastern Turkey, where about half of the country's 12 million Kurds live.

Arab allies to discuss economic ties

DUBAI (R) — Syrian and Egyptian ministers arrived in Qatar Monday to discuss post-Gulf war economic cooperation with Gulf Arab states. Finance ministers of the eight-member Damascus declaration are due to meet in Doha Tuesday for the first time since the Gulf war Arab allies signed the economic and military alliance, accord in the Syrian capital in March 1991. The Qatari News Agency said Egyptian Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Yousef Mostapha and Syrian Finance Minister Khaled Mahayni were in Doha to attend the talks. The foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria and the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have met several times since signing the Damascus declaration but no concrete steps have been taken to implement it.

Garang turns up personally for peace talks

ABUJA (AFP) — Sudanese southern rebel chief John Garang arrived Monday in the Nigerian capital to join his delegation to negotiations with the Khartoum government, which are near collapse. Colonel Garang, head of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), had no plans to come to Abuja unless Nigerian mediators specifically requested his presence, an SPLA spokesman said at the onset of talks late last month. Diplomatic sources said that in spite of intensive mediation activity by the Nigerian hosts to the talks, they appeared still to be blocked on the question of strict Islamic law in Sudan.

Israel's allies shell South Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Israel's militia ally, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), shelled the outskirts of two villages in South Lebanon Monday. SLA gunners fired dozens of mortar bombs around the villages of Shaqra and Braichit, just outside Israel's unilateral "security zone," security sources said. Guerrillas of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah are active in the area. There were no reports of casualties. On Sunday Hizbollah guerrillas attacked an SLA post on a hill on the edge of the 15-kilometre deep zone with anti-tank rockets and machineguns but no one was hurt. The SLA returned the fire and shelled villages on a ridge controlled by Hizbollah north of the zone. Two Palestinian guerrillas and two SLA militiamen were killed in South Lebanon last week.

King optimistic of peace process, but warns against its failure

(Continued from page 1)

people require, need, deserve merit — and it is their right — to a better kind of life. That has been the case so far.

"Look at Europe, we have seen it come closer together. Why is not this the case in our region? Look at the questions of democracy, human rights, and the participation of people in shaping their future. We feel that the Arab World itself should progress along this line. I am trying my best with all Jordanians to ensure that this is the case here and that we present ourselves a good example to others, then I think that we wouldn't be a threat, we will be stable, we will achieve complementarity and do better ...

"The biggest blame is on us, within this region — Hopefully leaders would realise that they have to move with the time and cannot stop the clock or turn it back ... so that the Arab and Muslim worlds can appear as they truly are.

"Here in Jordan we live the life of political pluralism, complementarity as members of one family. So Islam is not really a problem."

On Iraq, he said: "Unfortunately I am not in a position to say that I have ever really coordinated with the Iraqi president, nor has he accepted my advice; nor was I able to influence him through the entirety of the Gulf crisis and up to this time."

"On the other hand I am very concerned for the people of Iraq, for the possible fragmentation of their country and all the suffering of its people."

"I wish that the country will reconcile and begin to regain its status in the area and in the world with democracy, pluralism and respect of human rights."

"As far as Saddam Hussein is concerned, I do not wish to personalise the issue but I believe that Iraq is an important country, should remain together and hopefully the people of Iraq can help themselves to get out of this very difficult crisis ..."

Asked whether he "fears" Iran, the King said:

"I certainly worry about dangerous policies where ever they come from, but I am not afraid of Iran not at all. I believe

that if there is any reason for concern it is because there is weakness that may encourage others to take advantage of it. The weakness is inherent in our region and we hope it can be addressed."

"Asked how he viewed the situation in the region in the year 2000, he said:

"I hope Sir the root cause of instability in this region, the ladder that many had planned to climb to power over the recent past, will be addressed. That is the Palestinian-Israeli and the Arab-Israeli problem."

"I certainly hope to see that happen and to do whatever we can to contribute for it."

"On the other hand, I hope that we will see that evolution rather than revolution occur in this entire region, by leaders realising the need to give people their rights and to share with them shaping their future."

The King said that he cherished his friendship with French President Francois Mitterrand and people and considered Mr. Mitterrand as one of the great world leaders. He voiced hope for continued cooperation with France.

'Suicide doctor' arrested

DETROIT, Michigan (AFP) — Jack Kevorkian was arrested Sunday after witnessing a cancer patient's suicide, in apparent defiance of a new Michigan state law barring assisted suicide. Dr. Kevorkian, a 64-year-old retired pathologist, was arrested and released into his attorney's custody, and not immediately charged, police said. Ron Mansur, 54, killed himself by breathing carbon monoxide through a mask in a real estate office in Dr. Kevorkian's presence, said Dr. Kevorkian's attorney, Geoffrey Fieger. Police said the Detroit man was 44. Mr. Mansur was the 16th person to die in the presence of Dr. Kevorkian, dubbed the "suicide doctor" and "Doctor Death."

Unlike the previous 15 suicides he attended, Dr. Kevorkian had no assistants present Sunday. Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor George Ward said prosecutors were awaiting the police report before deciding whether to prosecute Dr. Kevorkian under the new law. Passed in February, the law makes assisted suicide a felony punishable by up to four years in prison. The law was passed after earlier attempts to charge Dr. Kevorkian with murder were dropped because Michigan had no specific laws against helping people commit suicide.

Baby receives revolutionary gene therapy

LOS ANGELES (R) — A five-day-old baby with a defective immune system has become the first newborn to undergo gene therapy, a revolutionary procedure that doctors hope will save his life, hospital officials said Sunday. Surgeons at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles Saturday injected 6-pound, 12-ounce (4 kg) Andrew Gohea with a small amount of gene-altered cells taken from blood drawn from his mother's Placenta just after birth. A hospital spokeswoman said the baby was in good condition following the highly experimental operation. He will be kept isolated in a germ-free plastic bubble for three to six months, the time it will take doctors to determine whether the procedure was successful. Dr. Donald Kohn, director of the hospital's gene therapy programme, said he hoped the therapy would eventually be used to treat other infants with genetic disorders that can be diagnosed in the womb, including AIDS, haemophilia and sickle cell anaemia.

Brazil writer is out of intensive care

BRASILIA (R) — Jorge Amado, Brazil's best-known writer and author of such novels as "Dona Flor And Her Two Husbands," was out of intensive care Sunday as he recovered from a heart attack, a hospital spokeswoman said. "He left the intensive care unit this afternoon and was put under semi-intensive care," said Inez Faria, a spokeswoman for Hospital Alianca in Mr. Amado's hometown of Salvador.

Mr. Amado, 80, was taken to hospital Thursday after suffering a heart attack at his home. Mr. Amado has written more than 20 novels and has been translated into more than 30 languages. His work deals largely with the joys and cares of common Brazilians, especially in his native northeastern Brazil. His best-known work is Dona Flor And Her Two Husbands, about a young widow who remarries but continues to have a love affair with the ghost of her dead husband. It was made into a 1978 hit movie starring Sonia Braga, and a second best-selling novel, Gabriela, Clove And Cinnamon, also served as the basis for a successful movie starring Braga.

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